

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Michigan PTA Resolution on Safe, Supportive and Inclusive Schools

WHEREAS, the broad definition of inclusive education recognizes the right of every student – without exception. It involves adapting the environment and teaching approaches to ensure genuine and full participation of all students. It embraces human diversity and welcomes all as equal members of an educational community; and

WHEREAS, research overwhelmingly supports inclusive education, which yields positive outcomes for social justice and a sense of community and belonging. Inclusive schools provide benefits for learning outcomes and for the social, behavioral and physical development of every student; and

WHEREAS, National PTA advocates for policies and legislation that ensure equity for every student, are grounded in social justice and support the whole child and family. We know that students of all races, religions, abilities and socioeconomic statuses can reach their full potential when the school environment is one in which they feel truly valued; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Education's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan recognizes in one of its Guiding Principles that all students have the right to high-quality instruction regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, economic status, native language, or physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities, and this access will improve educational outcomes for our students to close the student achievement and opportunity gaps that currently exist. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Michigan PTA and its constituent organizations call upon all Michigan public schools to adopt inclusive practices; be it further

RESOLVED, that Michigan PTA and its constituent organizations advocate for approaches to education that embed diverse perspectives, cultures, and identities into curriculum and discussions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Michigan PTA urges its constituent organizations to call upon their local school boards to adopt resolutions that comprehensively address inclusive practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Michigan PTA and its constituent organizations will continue to advocate for and support legislation and policies to support inclusive schools, to ensure all youth in Michigan public schools receive a high quality education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Michigan PTA and its constituent organizations encourage schools to examine existing educational policies, procedures, and programs to eliminate any practices that disenfranchise, discourage or adversely affect children.

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Rationale for resolution

All students—including students from historically marginalized populations—have the right to a quality, equitable education in a safe, supportive and inclusive school. We know that students of all races, religions, abilities and socioeconomic statuses can reach their full potential when the school environment is one in which they feel truly valued. PTA advocates for policies and legislation that ensure equity for every student, are grounded in social justice and support the whole child and family. By implementing inclusive practices across the entire educational community, students can strengthen not only their academic and communication skills, but improve self-worth, empathy and confidence, and build a sense of community and belonging. Schools must work toward providing an inclusive education to every student, without exception.