



## ADOPTED 2012 RESOLUTIONS

### RETENTIONS

#### **Retention #1 — Retained**

**Marijuana** – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. reaffirm its position against the legalization of marijuana, except for medical use approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and continue to work toward the education of children and parents regarding harmful effects from continued use of marijuana.

#### **Retention #2 — Retained**

**Fines and/or Services for Vandalism** – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge that school districts and courts provide counseling or other preventive educational measures for all students who have been found guilty of vandalism to school property;

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge that when courts find a minor guilty of vandalizing school property, school boards set restitution through the court in the form of service to the school community and fines to cover the cost of vandalism to the legal limit;

**Resolved** that, if the vandals and/or their parents are unable to provide full monetary compensation, additional service to the school community be sought in lieu of, or in addition to, the fines;

**Resolved** that for those incidents of vandalism which are not brought to the courts, school districts adopt Policies establishing consequences such as service to the school or community for the students involved.

#### **Retention #3 — Retained**

**Absentee Notification Procedures** – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek legislation that would repeal sections 2c and 2d of the New York State Education Law 3213\*;

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek legislation that would require that persons in parental relationships of all students grades K-12 be notified that they may submit a written request for notification of a child's absence from school;

**Resolved** that the written request includes the telephone number of the person or persons to be notified and any other information to facilitate communication;

**Resolved** that said notification take place by the most prompt and expedient manner possible by a person or persons authorized by the school district; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge its units and councils to educate persons in parental relationships as to the reasons for and significance of completion of the request for notification form.

\*Section 3213c and d refer only to elementary students. This PTA resolution provides a similar process for all K-12 students

#### **Retention #4 — Retained**

##### **Participation in Decision Making – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge its regions, councils, and units to place greater emphasis on training its members to analyze programs, curricula, and school budgets and to better comprehend education law and school district policies and procedures, thereby preparing members to engage in more knowledgeable discussion with educators, school boards, and legislators in order to convey priorities, innovative approaches and options necessary to maintain quality education for all children.

#### **Retention #5 — Retained**

##### **Migrant Children – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage local and state education agencies to develop and implement processes that improve migrant students' access to secondary school services in the following areas: instructional opportunities, credit accumulation, and counseling and support services.

#### **Retention #6 — Retained**

##### **Paper Recycling and Recycled Paper Use – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge units and councils to reduce paper waste and encourage schools to reduce paper waste; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage PTAs at local, region, state, and national levels to use recycled paper in their PTA work; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge the National PTA to promote the use of recycled paper and paper recycling in schools.

#### **Retention #7 — Retained**

##### **Equitable Distribution of State Aid – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support development of an equitable distribution of state aid funds to provide equal educational opportunities for all public school students; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA continue to urge the legislature and the governor to increase financial support of public education.

### **Retention #8 – Retained**

#### **Healthy Choices – 2012 (R-'05)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. raise awareness of and educate children and youth, parents, school personnel, and the community about healthy choices; and be it further

**Resolved** that New York State PTA encourage units and councils to advocate for healthy choices in the home, school and community; and be it further

**Resolved** that New York State PTA urge parents to participate in school wellness committees and work to establish policies regarding healthy choices; and be it further

**Resolved** that New York State PTA encourage decision makers, including legislators, to implement, support and fund programs and activities that foster healthy choices.

### **Retention #9 – Retained**

#### **Elimination of Trans Fats from School Foods – 2012 (R-'05)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. is concerned about obesity and other diet-related diseases and their effects upon children and youth, and supports the elimination of non-naturally occurring trans fats from school foods; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA actively work to reduce non-naturally occurring trans fats from school meals a la cart vending choices, foods available for sale at after-school events and other events, and foods used in fundraising; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage units and councils to work actively to educate school administrators, faculty, food service providers, parents and children about healthy food choices.

### **Retention #10 – Retained**

#### **Awareness of Medication Management in Schools – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge units and councils to encourage school districts to ensure implementation of school policies and procedures regarding administration and management of prescription medication; and be it further

**Resolved** that New York State PTA urge units and councils to provide programs and information to raise awareness through education of adults in a parental role regarding access to medications; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA support annual in-service programs for faculty and staff that include awareness of symptoms of identified medical conditions for students under their supervision.

## **Retention #11 — Retained**

### **Ingredient Labeling – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that would require full disclosure, in clear language, of all ingredients and additives, including chemical additives in water, on food, drug and cosmetic labels.

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to educate its members as to the importance of reading labels and understanding the possible significance of the effects of the listed ingredients on the human body in order to protect the nutrition and health of children.

## **Retention #12 — Referred to committee**

### **Infection Control Training for Volunteers – 2005 (R-'98, R-'91)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the State Education Department to require school districts to train all school volunteers and school personnel in infection control techniques to ensure the safety and health of all students and adults in the school setting; and be it further

**Resolved** that this infection control technique training follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendations that it be conducted by a qualified professional, be comprehensive, and include a demonstration of procedures as well as an opportunity for hands-on experience; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to promote this infection control training for those members volunteering in the school until such time as the school district provides the training.

## **Retention #13 — Retained**

### **Teaching Our Children Personal Safety – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage each unit and council to promote educational programs (for parents, children and youth) based on the currently mandated Health and Safety Environment Standards (#2) of the New York State Education Department with emphasis upon personal safety techniques.

## **Retention # 14 — Retained**

### **Safeguarding Exploited and Missing Children – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge their school districts to develop procedures for the registration of new students that would include a special check on individual students whose records are missing, incomplete, or suspicious to verify their validity; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that will toughen the laws and enforce more stringent punishment of perpetrators of serious and repeated sexual abuse crimes and murders against children.

## **Retention # 15 — Retained**

### **TV and Internet Control Devices – 2012 (R-'05, U-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge PTA units to educate their members as to the availability of parent control devices for both TV and the Internet.

## **Retention #16 — Retained**

### **Ban of Standardized Testing of Young Children- 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge local school districts to stop the mass use of standardized tests from preschool through second grade (with exception of mandated bilingual and certain special education assessments); and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge local school districts to develop and replace standardized tests below the third grade with alternative assessment methods that go by various names (authentic, appropriate, performance based and direct) and will provide useful data and genuine accountability; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge that the State Education Department, State Board of Regents, State Legislature, and local school districts NOT call for new or additional standardized tests below the third grade and NOT rely on existing standardized tests below the third grade as indicators of educational progress; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge councils and local units to provide information to parents about developmentally appropriate alternative means of assessment.

## **Retention #17 — Retained**

### **Fundraising Position – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to prevent the exploitation of children through PTA fundraising; and be it further

**Resolved** that children and youth should never sell door-to-door for PTA; and be it further

**Resolved** that children and youth should never be offered prize incentives for fundraising; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA educate its units and councils about the dangers involved in fundraising practices which utilize children in the generation of sales and revenue; and be it further

**Resolved** that all PTAs re-examine their fundraising practices as to whether those activities promote PTA's objects and purposes.

## **Retention #18 — Retained**

### **Identifying Unsafe School Crossings on State Roads – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support the passage of legislation which would enable the Department of Transportation to expend funds on identified risk areas and for the purpose of erecting, maintaining, and up-keeping of traffic signals on state, county, and local roads.

## UPDATES

### **Update #1 — Adopted as amended**

#### **Underage Access Resulting from the Direct Shipping of Alcoholic Beverages – 2012 (U-'05, R-'98)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would make the sale of alcoholic beverages over the Internet to minors and the subsequent delivery to minors a felony with increased fines and penalties; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would require proper labeling of shipments to indicate that shipment must be signed for by a person over 21 years of age with photo identification; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge units and councils to educate their members about the ease of access to alcohol on the Internet, by mail, by telephone and through the use of credit/debit cards and any other electronic payment methods; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge units and councils to educate their members about the risks involved and the need for vigilance in safeguarding credit cards.

### **Update #2 — Adopted as presented**

#### **Fair Housing – 2012 (U-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge its units to be aware of discriminatory housing practices against families with children, particularly single-parent, minority, and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender) families and families of children and adults with special needs; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge units to promote programs disseminating information of fair housing laws and the rights of individuals under those laws; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA support measures to strengthen existing laws to promote stronger enforcement of fair housing laws.

### **Update #3 — Adopted as presented**

#### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Insurance Parity – 2012 (U-'05)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. urge PTA units and councils to work to educate parents and the school community about parity issues and available mental health and substance abuse services and programs.

## NEW RESOLUTIONS

### **New Resolution #1 — Adopted as presented Air Quality Standards in Indoor Ice Arenas – 2012**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to establish air quality standards of less than 25 parts per million (ppm) for carbon monoxide (CO) within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge the NYSDOH to establish air quality standards of less than .5 ppm of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge the NYSDOH to establish air quality standards of less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter for coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and less than 25 micrograms per cubic meter for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA support legislation for low emission or electric ice resurfacers, including proper maintenance thereof within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that requires adequate ventilation, and the installation of air quality measuring devices in all enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support regulations requiring proper training of operators and staff in maintenance and use of equipment and in emergency procedures; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge its units, councils and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of elevated levels of CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter in enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA forward this resolution to National PTA for its consideration.

### **New Resolution #2 — Adopted as presented Reducing & Phasing Out the Purchase of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Plastic in New York Schools – 2012**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would reduce and phase out the use of PVC products at all New York State school facilities; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge school districts and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to develop green procurement policies to reduce and phase out the use and purchase of PVC building materials and office and education supplies in school facilities where safer cost effective alternatives are available; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA and its constituent units educate parents and community members about the potential health effects of PVC and work to eliminate PVC products at all PTA-sponsored events; and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA forward this resolution to the National PTA for its consideration.