



## **ADOPTED 2013 RESOLUTIONS**

### **RETENTIONS**

#### **Retention #1 — Retained**

##### **Definition and Identification of Gifted and Talented – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York SED to ask for increased funding to provide more stringent enforcement to ensure that both a district's gifted and talented students be identified to the full extent of the definition and appropriate programs be provided to address the three areas of gifted and talented as defined by the New York State Education Department, and be it further

**Resolved** that the school district be required to notify the parents or guardians of a student identified as gifted or talented regardless of whether or not the district has a program of gifted and talented education to meet their needs, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urge its units and councils to encourage their local school districts to comply with the New York State Education Department regulations.

#### **Retention #2 — Retained**

##### **Implementing Environmental Educational and Legislative Action – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, U-'92)**

**Resolved** the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation on the national, state, and local levels which encourages conservation of resources and use of more environmentally sound, renewable energy sources, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge the New York State Education Department to develop environmental outcomes so that each student will acquire knowledge of the ecological consequences of choices in the use of the environment and natural resources, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge local school districts to use school facilities as environmental living, learning laboratories to promote understanding of interdependency and how human activities relate to our ecosystems, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage the SED to accept collegiate level Environmental Science Courses for teachers seeking general science certification.

#### **Retention #3 — Retained**

##### **Juvenile Offenders – Prevention, Intervention and Follow-Up – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation to increase funding for prevention and intervention programs for high-risk youth, i.e. mentoring programs, after-school activities, substance abuse counseling, etc., and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to increase the programs for juveniles accused of serious offenses, i.e. mental health, sex offense and substance abuse treatment programs, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to create aftercare programs for juvenile offenders once they return to their neighborhoods and communities.

#### **Retention #4 — Retained**

##### **Transferring Of Records – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the NYSED to inform school personnel across the state of the concern for the lack of expeditious transfer of school records; and strongly encourage the NYSED to develop appropriate policies and guidelines that insure the timely transfer of records, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to alert and educate parents and members as to this proposed policy and its compliance within their own districts.

#### **Retention #5 — Retained**

##### **Domestic Violence – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation for public and private agencies within communities to establish or maintain temporary, alternate housing and shelters for victims of domestic violence, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge that psychological and counseling services be made available for all family members in disrupted households in such a way that the safety of the victims is not jeopardized, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA continue to promote and support legislation that would ensure sufficient funding for services to victims of domestic violence in NYS.

#### **Retention #6— Retained**

##### **Challenges to Textbook and Educational Material Review – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage its units/councils to work with their respective school districts to implement the procedures for selection of textbooks and educational materials, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge all units/councils to work specifically to support adherence to the provision requiring that no challenged material be removed pending a decision arrived at through due process by an approved review committee.

#### **Retention #7 — Retained**

##### **Child Safety Seating – 2013 (R-'99, U-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the appropriate agencies / organizations to provide assistance in obtaining federally approved child safety seats for families who are unable to afford them, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage enforcement of all existing statutes and regulations on the use of child safety seats.

## **Retention #8— Retained**

### **Comprehensive NYS Tobacco Control & Prevention Program – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers seek and support sustainable funding at the recommended CDC levels for the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, and be it further

**Resolved** that NYS PTA urge that the essential components of the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program be maintained and enhanced.

## **Retention #9 — Retained**

### **Parents On Shared Decision Making Committees – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers recommend that the New York State Education Department provide to all unit and council presidents and region PTA leaders a copy of Regulation 100.11 as adopted by the Board of Regents, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urge the training of participants in the process of shared decision-making and the showcasing of school districts that have school-based planning teams with parents as active participants, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA recommend that units, councils, and regions sponsor training for parents on the process of shared decision-making, group dynamics, interpersonal skills, listening skills, and so forth, and be it further

**Resolved** that local PTA units and councils advocate that in the planning for these school-based planning teams that training of all team members be included as part of any policy adopted by the school district, and be it further

**Resolved** that local PTA units and councils urge that school districts train the team together and that parents are included in that training.

## **Retention #10 — Retained**

### **Strengthening the Kindergarten Program – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage its units and councils to urge school districts to strengthen the kindergarten program with full day and developmentally appropriate programs taught by highly qualified teachers, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage the New York State Education Department to disseminate information by which school districts with full day kindergartens may evaluate their program, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage the New York State Education Department to engage in research to determine the effectiveness of full day kindergarten programs, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA advocate for full funding for full day kindergarten programs, staffing and facilities.

**Retention #11 — Retained**

**Bicycle Helmet Law – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, U-'89)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would require all persons who operate or are passengers on bicycles to wear bicycle helmets, and that existing law prohibiting passengers under 1 year of age remain the same.

**Retention #12 — Retained**

**Charter Bus Safety – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to retain all bus drivers' accident and moving violation records over a ten year period of time, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to increase civil penalties against bus companies for non-compliance with intra- and inter-state motor carrier laws, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that requires seat belts on charter buses, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would require the superintendent of schools to obtain the charter bus company's records to approve the services of charter bus drivers and approve only drivers who meet the additional requirement of school bus driver certification, including fingerprinting and background checks, and be it further

Resolved that the law requires the superintendent of schools to obtain a bus driver's inter- and intra-state accident and moving violation records before allowing them to drive buses transporting children, and be it further

**Resolved** that PTA units, councils and regions urge local school districts to obtain bus drivers' inter- and intra-state accident and moving violation records before allowing them to drive buses transporting children.

**Retention #13 — Retained**

**Training of School Employees in the Care of a Choking Victim – 2013 (R-'06)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. supports regulation or legislation that would require, at minimum, one school employee trained in the care of the choking victim to be present at each food service period, in each lunch room, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA advocate for funding to be provided to school districts for the training of school employees in the care of the choking victim.

**Retention #14 — Retained**

**Homeless Children and Youth – 2013 (R-'06)**

**Resolved** that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. and its units, councils and regions shall disseminate information and educate parents, students and the community on the importance of full access to education for homeless children and youth, including emancipated youth.

## UPDATES

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

#### **Funding for Education Mandates – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**Resolved** that the New State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage funding by the State Legislature new and existing educational mandates.

### **Update #2 — Adopted as amended**

#### **Suicide Prevention – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that provides funding for suicide prevention and intervention programs for students in grades K-12, and be it further

**Resolved** that school districts be encouraged to provide in-service training for teachers and support staff, on the problem of youth suicide, and be it further

**Resolved** the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate parents about youth suicide, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA support the development of services for survivors of suicide attempt(s) and for families who have lost someone to suicide.

### **Update #3 — Adopted as amended**

#### **Firearms Accident Prevention Law – 2013(R-'06, R-'99, U-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation making parents and/or owners responsible for negligently stored firearms and ammunition.

**Resolved** the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate the parents and/or owners about their legal responsibility for negligently stored firearms and ammunition.

### **Update #4 — Adopted as amended**

#### **Internet Safety – 2013 (R-'06)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. will work to inform and educate parents, students, educators, school staff and communities on the dangers associated with internet, wireless and other electronic communication, and be it further

**Resolved** that New York State PTA units, councils and regions will work to heighten parents' technologic awareness and skills and encourage the use of internet safety strategies to ensure the safety of children and youth, and to encourage responsible and ethical use of internet resources, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA shall work with collaborating partners and others to advocate for the protection of children and youth in a cyber world, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA, its units, councils and regions shall work to ensure that appropriate laws, policies and regulations are in place to protect children and youth when using the internet, wireless and other electronic communications.

**Update #5 — Adopted as amended**

**Infection Control and Universal Precautions for Volunteers – 2013 (R-'05, 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 develop and implement infection control and universal precautions policies for all volunteers to ensure the safety and health of all students and adults in the school setting, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to participate in infection control and universal precautions in conjunction with the school district for those members volunteering in the school.

**RECISSION**

**School Bus Safety – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation which would make the School Bus Driver Safety program a part of the Education Law.

**NEW RESOLUTIONS**

**Food Animal Production and Antibiotic Resistance – 2013**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge Congress and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to act to protect human health by prohibiting the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in food animal production, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to improve labeling of meat and poultry products at federal and state levels to adequately and accurately identify antibiotic use during food production, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation requiring public disclosure on the amount, type and purpose of antibiotic use during food animal production, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA support initiatives that would encourage local school districts to purchase meat and poultry products sourced from animals receiving antibiotics only for treatment of disease, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourage PTA units and councils to educate parents, school district staff and Boards of Education about antibiotic overuse and misuse in food animal production and its contribution to antibiotic-resistant infections in adults and children, and be it further

**Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA for consideration at their convention.

**Revising New York State Department of Transportation Child Safety Zone Point System – 2013**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to amend the guidelines for child safety zones to allow greater points to be given to roads with more than four lanes, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urge its units and councils to educate schools, parents and children on the dangers of crossing multilane highways.

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

**Social Host Law**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage and support legislation to adopt a statewide social host criminal law that would prohibit adults from providing alcohol or allowing the consumption of alcohol in homes or on noncommercial property by youth under the age of 21 who are not their children, and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State PTA, its units, councils and regions provide information to students, parents and community members regarding the detrimental effects and significant dangers of underage drinking and adults providing alcohol to minors.