



2016 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

RETENTION #1: RETAINED

STUDENT PARTICIPATION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. units in secondary schools, PTA councils, and PTA regions be encouraged to have students on their boards, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA, urge school boards and administrators to establish channels for regular dialogue with secondary school students representing a cross-section of the students enrolled in the school district.

RETENTION #2: RETAINED

REFORM OF STATE AID TO EDUCATION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support and encourage legislation that would set a minimum level of state aid of at least 50% of the total educational costs for the state, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA support and encourage legislation to create built-in minimum levels of funding for state-prescribed staffing ratios and other mandates.

RETENTION #3: RETAINED

SCHOOL NURSES – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage its units and councils to assess with the staff and school boards of their districts the risks of having inadequate health care for students, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge the State Education Department to mandate a full-time, registered nurse in every school building.

RETENTION #4: RETAINED

UP-TO-DATE AND UNBIASED EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support ongoing challenges to the decisions of cases that limit the content of school books, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA communicate with school textbook publishers to make them aware of the continuing need for textbooks that offer an overview of opinion and factual information, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA encourage school boards and school board associations to unite in their determination to purchase educational materials which contain up-to-date information and present facts in an unbiased manner, and be it further

RESOLVED that every New York State school district ensure that all instruction materials and textbooks to be used in schools are available in useable alternative formats for all students (Chapter 377 Education Law 2001).

RETENTION #5: RETAINED

VOLUNTEERISM – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support an amendment to the Internal Revenue Code to allow volunteers the same standard of deduction for their mileage rate as that used by business people in computing their expense deduction.

RETENTION #6: RETAINED

PENALTIES FOR PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., seek stronger enforcement of the existing law that requires all vehicles to stop and not pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing.

RETENTION #7: RETAINED

ADULT SUPERVISION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. units and councils urge their local school boards to provide adequate adult supervision of children during lunch and recess and that a minimum of one adult be assigned to each area where such activities are taking place.

RETENTION #8: RETAINED

SIGN LANGUAGE – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95, U-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. units and councils encourage their school districts to offer sign language as a second language option.

RETENTION #9: RETAINED

SPECIAL EDUCATION – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the State Education Department to change the regulations to read that all children with disabling conditions from age 11 and up are entitled to career and technical training for “real work” by using the New York State Education Department Career Development Occupational Study (CDOS) Standards, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge the State Education Department to monitor school districts carefully to ensure continued compliance.

RETENTION #10: RETAINED

HAZING – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. urge that schools educate their students and that PTAs educate their members as to the possible dangers that may occur in hazings.

RETENTION: #11: RETAINED

TV/VIDEO VIEWING IN SCHOOLS – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage the Board of Regents to adopt a regulation that would require every school district to have a policy for the use of movies, videos (DVD, Blue-Ray, etc.), television, and the Internet in all classrooms, and be it further

RESOLVED that this policy be formulated with parental involvement.

RETENTION #12: RETAINED

HORSEBACK RIDING SAFETY – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'98, R-'91);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support stronger legislation to enact a riding safety code for operators of horseback riding facilities which would include, but not be limited to, the use of protective helmets and safety instructions to reduce the chance of injury.

UPDATES

UPDATE #1: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

SALE OF TOBACCO TO MINORS – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge local units to seek the cooperation of their local law enforcement agencies in enforcing the law banning the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products to minors and those local ordinances pertaining to it, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge its local units to communicate with their local governments expressing their desire to see stringent penalties for offense of these laws and to seek local ordinances banning cigarette machines, demanding their removal after first offense or at least regulating their locations within an establishment, making them less accessible.

UPDATE #2: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

POINT OF SALE ACCESSIBILITY AND ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS – 2016 (U-'09, (R-'02, U-'00);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge and support legislation requiring that any establishment selling tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, or any other nicotine-

containing products may not engage in point-of-sale advertising of these products, except in adult only settings, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge and support legislation that would prohibit any visible or audio advertising at the point of sale, where underage persons might be exposed.

UPDATE #3: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

PARENT PARTICIPATION – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Education Department advise and inform PTAs of the existence of all mandated school committees, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the NYSED and the state and local agencies and the school boards to use the PTA to serve on mandated school committees concerning children, wherever appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State PTA and its regions make available parent representatives to serve wherever appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED that PTA units and councils make themselves available to their school districts to serve on school committees, wherever appropriate.

UPDATE #4: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

LABELING OF MILK PRODUCTS – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, U-'01, R-'94);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the New York State Legislators to mandate that all milk coming from cows fed, injected with, or that have been administered hormones be labeled.

UPDATE: #5: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

REGIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY PART 200 REGULATIONS – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the State Education Department Regional Offices to maintain ongoing two-way communication, with parents from PTA/SEPTA and BOCES on a regular basis and share information through the state-funded parent centers, and be it further

RESOLVED that regional communication includes identification of any unmet needs within the region regarding the education of children with disabling conditions, and be it further

RESOLVED that regional reporting of data and evaluation of services provided to children with disabling conditions be shared with parents and educators.

UPDATE #6: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02);

RESOLVED that the Reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be for a minimum of six years before it is necessary to reauthorize again, and be it further

RESOLVED that pursuant to the DSM 5 criteria, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder be specifically added to the list of official classifications in the IDEA, and be it further

RESOLVED that a “Parent Member” be included in the official committee membership in the IDEA, and that the IDEA provide only the parent/guardian with the option to “waive” the requirement that the “Parent Member” be in attendance at the meeting, and be it further

RESOLVED that a school psychologist be included in the official committee membership in the IDEA, and be it further

RESOLVED that the IDEA provide full funding (Full funding is defined as 40% of the National Average of Per Pupil Expenditure in the 1975, 1997, and 2004 legislation) to the states and the school districts for programs and services, and that the full funding be designated in the federal education budget each year, and be it further

RESOLVED that the U.S. Department of Education monitor the IDEA requirements for high school graduation, and that any student, regardless of receiving special education-related services, will be required to meet statewide assessments and credit requirements for graduation with a state-recognized diploma.

UPDATE: #7: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

MERCURY REDUCTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT --- 2016, (U-'09, U-'02);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation to reduce mercury discharge into the environment and to regulate industry contributing to mercury pollution by emissions or in products, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to inform and educate the public as to the hazards of mercury exposure and means of reducing mercury exposure including the proper clean up and disposal of mercury containing bulbs, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA encourage their local school boards to eliminate or reduce the use of mercury products in the schools.

UPDATE #8: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

SCHOOL BUS STOP VULNERABILITY – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02, U-'01, R-'94);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage PTA units and councils to mount a campaign to raise awareness of student vulnerability at school bus stops, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA continue to educate parents and students in school bus safety and make parents aware that they are responsible for monitoring and protecting their children until the school bus arrives at the stop and the red lights begin to flash.

UPDATE: #9: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

DETOXIFICATION OF MINORS – 2016 (U-'09);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge that public and private licensed detoxification services and substance use disorder treatment facilities for minors be made available within close proximity to an adolescent's area of residency at or above the level of access as available to adults, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State PTA seek and support legislation that gives parents and guardians rightful authority over a minor to obtain mental and medical assessment of such minor in order to determine whether he/she requires involuntary detoxification and stabilization, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would give substance use disorder treatment decision making authority to substance use disorder treatment professionals and remove authority from insurance companies, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA support funding for recovery from substance use disorders, such as the Federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) National Youth Recovery Initiative, be implemented throughout the state, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA will urge its units, councils, and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of substance use disorder and the treatment options available for minors.

RESCISSIONS

RESCISSION #1: RESCINDED

BAN ON DEET WITH CONCENTRATION OVER 30% – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the legislature to ban the use of DEET with concentrations over 30%.

RESCISSION: #2: RESCINDED

EMANCIPATION OF MINORS – 2009 (U-'02, U-'98, R-'91, R-'84);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., seek and support the passage of legislation that would establish conformity among child protection statutes, give parents rightful authority over their 16 and 17 year children, and define the age of emancipation in a manner that would protect the rights of young people and their parents, and be it further

RESOLVED that said legislation should provide that a parent's financial obligation to support his or her child under the age of 21 shall cease when it is demonstrated that the child is financially independent, or that the child, against the will of the parents, voluntarily and without good cause, has absented himself or herself from the custody and control of the parent or other lawful authority. (See 413 of Family Court Act, Sub 3 of 32 or Domestic Relations Act).

NEW RESOLUTIONS

NEW RESOLUTION #1: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) AND GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) FOODS – 2016

RESOLVED that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. support legislation and regulations that require mandatory labeling, with clear and conspicuous words, of GMO and GE foods, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State PTA support legislation and regulations that restrict pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE foods, from use in food and beverages provided by school meal programs and vending services, and be it further

RESOLVED that until such legislation and regulations are in effect, all school districts be encouraged to avoid the use of foods and beverages that contain pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE foods, provided by the school meal programs and vending services, and be it further

RESOLVED that New York State PTA encourage units and councils to educate parents and community members on the health and environmental effects of pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE food, products.

NEW RESOLUTION #2: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

EDUCATION ON THE SAFE USE OF DEET – 2016

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. urge units and councils to educate parents, teachers, and the community on the correct usage and potential dangers of incorrect usage of products containing DEET using the most current available positions of reliable medical experts, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.