



ADOPTED 2014 RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

Retention #1 — Retained

Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) PARENT MEMBER – 2014 (R-'07, U-'00);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge that a mandated “parent member” to the CPSE Committee as established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004 be eligible to serve for five years past the designated time that their child is declassified by the committee or ages out of CPSE level services.

Retention #2 — Retained

504 COMMITTEES – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support a mandate in New York State regulations, regarding students covered under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requiring that the parent of a child/youth who is referred to a 504 Committee be a member of that committee along with mandated school personnel to meet, assist with, and formulate decisions regarding accommodations and service for the child/youth.

Retention #3 — Retained

CELLULAR PHONE TOWERS – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that would encourage local communities, including parents and school officials, to regulate the placement of cell towers and cell tower antennas particularly in schools and areas where children congregate, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support continued research into the long-term effects of radio frequency and microwave frequencies on humans especially as they apply to children, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek to educate parents and school officials as to the current debate over the placement of cell towers and antennas.

Retention #4 — Retained

SUPPLEMENTAL LOTTERY AID TO EDUCATION – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge and support enforcement of existing legislation which would clearly provide 45% of the lottery proceeds as supplemental funds for education in addition to the allocated amount from the state's general revenues.

Retention #5 — Retained

PUPILS WITH SUPPORT SERVICE NEEDS – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, U-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage Boards of Education to identify at-risk children and youth and provide needed services as already required by Commissioner's Regulations (CR), and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA strongly support collaborative efforts with non-school agencies to provide services.

Retention #6 — Retained

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POVERTY – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. cooperate with agencies and organizations which advocate for children and youth in poverty, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support local, state, and federal legislation to alleviate isolation of the socioeconomic disadvantaged through specific programs such as more available day care, flexible work hours for quality parenting, and other beneficial actions.

Retention #7 — Retained

DISCHARGING OF FIRE ARMS WITHIN SCHOOL AREAS – 2014 (R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation to amend section 265.35 of the NYS Penal Code to prohibit the discharge of firearms by any person other than exceptions listed in section 265.35 (of the NYS Penal Code) within one-half mile of any school property; urge local communities to enact similar legislation, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge local cities, towns and villages to enact their own zoning ordinances which will not allow the discharge.

Retention #8 — Retained

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH FROM THE INFLUENCE OF TOBACCO USE IN MOVIES – 2014 (R-'07);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. endorse and support the four actions within the Smoke Free Movies Initiative, to: 1) rate new movies showing tobacco use “R” except if they reflect clear dangers or to portray a historical figure; 2) certify no payoffs or placements from the tobacco industry; 3) provide strong anti-smoking ads in any film with smoking; 4) stop identifying tobacco brands.

UPDATES

Update #1 — Adopted as presented

DRUG TESTING IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. oppose urinalysis testing for drugs for elementary and secondary students in schools, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage school districts to develop alternative methods for addressing suspected substance use by students, using school personnel who are trained in substance abuse detection, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage units and councils to work with school districts to establish partnerships with licensed substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies and seek funding for prevention, intervention, and “after-care” programs.

Update #2 — Adopted as presented

INDOOR AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation and regulations that will reduce indoor air pollution and promote the highest, safest levels for indoor air quality levels in schools.

Update #3 — Adopted as presented

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support protecting water recharge systems to maintain the natural filtering process to refresh underground aquifers, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage and support the effective management of groundwater supplies through research programs to develop better techniques for protecting and conserving the resource and monitoring groundwater supply and quality, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage education of children and youth regarding the need for conservation and water management.

Update #4 — Adopted as presented

SOIL CONTAMINATION ON SCHOOL GROUNDS – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support such efforts as to determine what levels of soil contamination by toxic substances are acceptable on school grounds, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support legislation to designate levels of safety for all ground and soil contaminates on school grounds, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support legislation to designate levels of acceptable exposure to children on school playgrounds and athletic fields, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage existing agencies, such as the NYS Dept. of Health, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to determine immediate health risks and limits of safe contact for children and youth on all existing sites by encouraging the testing of soil for all toxic ground and soil contaminates, and be it further

Resolved that if soil testing demonstrates contaminant levels exceeding safe or acceptable levels for human health or the environment, the affected areas should be immediately closed for use by the school community and fully remediated. Every effort should be made to ensure that the party (ies) responsible for contamination are held liable but cleanups should not be delayed while the party (ies) are identified.

Update #5 — Adopted as presented

HERBAL CIGARETTES – 2014 (U-'07, U-'00);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage local units and councils to educate parents and children and youth about the potential dangers of herbal cigarettes, including the Synthetic Cannabinoid Spice, and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge the State Education Department to update school health curricula to include information on the dangers of smoking herbal cigarettes.

Update #6 — Adopted as presented

REASONABLE ACCESS TO FOOD DURING SCHOOL – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the State Education Department to revise Commissioner's Regulation 7 CRF, part 210 to give children and youth the same protection afforded to adults in the workforce and require school districts to provide all children and youth with access to lunch no

earlier two and one half hours and no later than four hours after the start of the school day for each full day pupil attending pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

Update #7 — Adopted as presented

ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, U-'86);

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. and its local units focus on the prevention of unintended adolescent pregnancy, recognizing the need for involving parents or persons in parental relationship and uniting their efforts with school and community resources, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA support implementation of health/family-life curricula in every school, emphasizing the importance of the participation of parents or persons in parental relationship to the student, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA highlight and publish information about evidence-based health and family life programs that achieve good results, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA support funding for school-based health clinics which will provide comprehensive health care and counseling to adolescents and whatever pregnancy prevention services deemed appropriate by the local community.

Update #8 — Adopted as presented

REINSTATE AND RESTRUCTURE THE REGENTS COMPONENT RETESTING SYSTEM – 2014 (U-'07);

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teacher, Inc. urge the New York State Education Department to reinstate and restructure component retesting to: 1) include all curriculum areas in which regents exams are offered; and 2) be aligned with the Regents exams content and format, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge the New York State Education Department to simplify the component retesting program for easier access by: 1) scheduling component retests during all Regents exam periods, but not to conflict with other scheduled Regents exams; 2) allowing students with a score of at least 55, but not greater than 64, on a Regents exam to take a component retest; and 3) allowing students to sit for component retests regardless of grade level after receiving appropriate review in the component area.

NEW RESOLUTIONS

New Resolution #1 — Adopted as presented

EDUCATION FOR HIPAA RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND HEALTH CARE PROXY – 2014

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge educational institutions to create and deliver programs and make information available regarding HIPAA Privacy Laws and health care proxies to young adults, parents and guardians, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage educational institutions to make health care proxy forms available to students upon turning 18, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA encourage PTA units and councils to educate parents and school districts about the HIPAA Law and the importance of proper management of a young adult’s right to privacy, and be it further
- Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA for consideration at its convention.

New Resolution #2 — Adopted as presented

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND YOUTH – 2014

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue regulations that will address the manufacturing, ingredients, advertising, marketing and sale of electronic cigarettes, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in public places, and be it further
- Resolved** that the New York State PTA urge its units and councils to educate youth, parents, school boards and local officials on the dangers of e-cigarettes, and be it further
- Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA for consideration at its convention.

New Resolution #3 — Adopted as amended
SOCIAL HOST LAW – 2014

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers encourage and support legislation to adopt statewide social host laws that would prohibit adults from intentionally or knowingly providing alcohol or knowingly allowing the consumption of alcohol 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 social host laws.