

**To: All Unit/Council Presidents and NYS PTA Members**

**RE: Resolutions for Convention 2017**

Greetings! As your unit embarks on an exciting new PTA year, one of its first fall projects should be to review the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the upcoming 2017 NYS PTA Convention. The complete text of these resolutions will be found in this packet. Remember that all PTA members have the right to take part in their local PTA's discussion and vote on resolutions, even if they will not be attending Convention.

### **Review Current and Proposed Positions**

Resolutions articulate official NYS PTA positions that were adopted by vote of the delegates to past Annual Conventions. You can find these adopted positions in two official NYS PTA documents:

1. *Where We Stand*, which contains the complete text of each existing resolution; and
2. *Basic Policy*, which provides a broader overview of general NYS PTA positions.

PTA units and councils draw on these positions to shape their support of proposed legislation, policies or regulations and their advocacy in other areas affecting the welfare of children and youth.

There are 19 existing resolutions that have been reviewed by the NYS PTA Resolutions Committee and classified into the categories of retentions, updates or rescissions:

- *Retentions* are adopted resolutions that are up for renewal without any revision; delegates may therefore reaffirm or reject them in their current form, but may not amend them;
- *Updates* are adopted resolutions which are being revised to maintain their accuracy or relevance. Delegates will vote to reaffirm or reject each update as well, but may also amend *the revised wording* of the update; and
- *Rescissions* are resolutions that can be retired because their resolves have been enacted. Once rescinded, a resolution becomes part of NYS PTA's historical record.

### **Have a Discussion, and Then Vote at Your Membership Meeting**

To facilitate your resolutions debate, a brief statement following the text of each resolution explains the action (retention, update, rescission) proposed by the Resolutions Committee. Be sure to allow sufficient time at a general meeting for members to discuss each resolution before they vote on it.

Please consider using the enclosed Resolutions Checklist to keep a record of your members' votes; this will help your Convention delegates when they represent your members and vote on their behalf.

It's best for a PTA to give a vote of confidence to its delegates in case some unforeseen issue arises during Convention debate. This vote of confidence will allow the delegates to continue to represent their PTA while making appropriate decisions in light of new information. Even if for some reason your unit cannot send a delegate to Convention, the membership should still review and vote on these resolutions. All members need to be familiar with resolutions because they are the foundation of all PTA advocacy.

Resolutions debate is one of the high points of Annual Convention. When you come together with other delegates to voice your views and act on your principles, you will feel the power of volunteers to make a difference for children and schools.

**On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I invite you to Niagara Falls to join the action at NYS PTA's 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention on November 3-5. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Christoffel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lisa Christoffel  
NYS PTA Resolutions Coordinator  
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**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 2017 CHECKLIST**

<b><u>RETENTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
1. Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Supermarkets – 2010 (R-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
2. Alternative High School Programs and Settings for Students at Risk – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)	_____	_____
3. Integrated Pest Management – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)	_____	_____
4. Food Inspection and Regulation – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
5. Preventive Health Programs – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
6. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) – Education Regarding Radio Broadcasting – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96)	_____	_____
7. Child Care Services – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, R-'82)	_____	_____
8. Change in the Vehicle Traffic Law Pertaining to Stopped School Buses – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96)	_____	_____
9. Monitors on School Buses – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____

<b><u>UPDATES</u></b>	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
1. Comprehensive K-12 Drug, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Education – 2010 (U-'02)	_____	_____
2. Compulsory Education – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89)	_____	_____
3. Use of Polystyrene Products – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)	_____	_____
4. Hazards from Land, Water, Air, Noise and Light Pollution – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
5. Establish a Legislative Task Force to Reform State Aid to Education Formulas – 2010 (R-'03)	_____	_____
6. School Lunch Programs – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
7. Background Checks of School Employees – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)	_____	_____
8. Mandated Fire Drills – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____

<b><u>RESCISSIONS</u></b>	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
1. 3020a Hearings – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____
2. Protecting Youth in Cults – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____

## 2017 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

### RETENTIONS

#### **RETENTION #1**

#### **SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN SUPERMARKETS – 2010 (R-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. oppose any legislation permitting the sale of liquor and wine in supermarkets, convenience stores, and drug stores.

**STATEMENT:** Current NYS liquor laws currently prohibit the sale of liquor and wine in supermarkets, convenience stores, and drug stores. Advocacy can continue to retain this law.

#### **RETENTION #2:**

#### **ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SETTINGS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support the educational concept of alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek adequate fiscal resources from the State to support alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk that include the provision so that school districts have the flexibility to support programs designed to meet the particular needs of their students at risk.

**STATEMENT:** Alternative high school programs were created to assist students to complete high school. Some districts offer programs that are unique to their own specific needs, while others do not. Programs should also provide these students at risk with the services they require. Since there is not a uniform standard throughout the state, advocacy is still required in this area.

#### **RETENTION #3:**

#### **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the use of pesticides only as last resort and the promotion of alternative pest control methods in order to protect children's health, safety, and environment.

**STATEMENT:** While Integrated Pest Management is now required to establish the least toxic approach in schools under New York State Chapter 85 of the Laws of 2010, it is not mandatory in the general population.

**RETENTION #4:**

**FOOD INSPECTION AND REGULATION – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support the proper inspection and regulation of food by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and other agencies, such as the NYS Dept. of Health (DOH), to prevent mislabeling and to detect contamination.

**STATEMENT:** This is a retained resolution that can more broadly be interpreted to include labeling of foreign-sourced foods and allergen-laden production sites.

**RETENTION #5:**

**PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., strongly support age-appropriate preventive health programs such as: prenatal and well-child care, newborn screenings, immunizations, nutritional screenings, dental care, vision and hearing screenings, scoliosis and blood pressure screenings, lead poisoning and tuberculin skin tests, and voluntary screening for genetic diseases.

**STATEMENT:** This is being retained because NYS PTA continues to support preventive health programs.

**RETENTION #6:**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION (FCC) – EDUCATION REGARDING RADIO BROADCASTING – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage the radio broadcast industry to comply with the letter and spirit of the FCC “safe harbor” provisions for children, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA encourage the radio broadcast industry, and particularly those stations that appeal to children, to broadcast language and material that is suitable for children, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA urge units and councils to educate parents about the need to monitor their children's radio listening and about the FCC "safe harbor" provisions and procedures for filing complaints.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is being retained because monitoring of expanding media exposure for children is important. Those who are watching out for the health, safety, and welfare of children need to remain vigilant.

**RETENTION #7:**

**CHILD CARE SERVICES – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, R-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. encourage units and councils to have programs addressing the need for child care, including school-age child care, in their communities and to share guidelines on quality child care with parents, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge the state legislature to address the need to encourage home child care providers to register and to provide training programs for all child care providers in order to reduce turnover and improve quality of care, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA encourage the state legislature to address the different needs of families for accessible child care by providing incentives for more infant slots, increased salaries for child care workers, and further incentives for business and other organizations to start quality programs.

**STATEMENT:** Opportunities for and access to trained child care providers continues to be an important issue for working and non-working parents.

**RETENTION #8:**

**CHANGE IN THE VEHICLE TRAFFIC LAW PERTAINING TO STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support programs to raise the awareness of dangerous traffic situations at school bus stops, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation to prevent a vehicle from making turns towards a school bus while it is discharging or receiving passengers to change the law to read "any" where it now reads "either" in section 1174(a) Vehicle and Traffic Law, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to prohibit the establishment of bus stops at intersections or within 100 feet of intersections unless the Board of Education adopts a resolution indicating that an intersection location is unavoidable.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is being retained because it is important for PTAs to continue to support programs that can raise awareness of traffic safety for school bus stops and all routes to school. There is also a current bill pending in the NYS Senate (S4118) to amend the current law as listed in the second resolve. Although the NYS Education Department recommends there should be mid-block bus stops for urban settings and moving stops back a minimum of 100 feet from an intersection, these are not required by law.

**RETENTION #9:**

**MONITORS ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage its local units to sponsor campaigns within their school districts to have money allocated in school budgets to pay the expenses incurred for hiring and training monitors, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA continue to encourage the State Legislature to consider bus monitors an integral part of transporting children to and from school and, therefore, an “aidable” transportation cost.

**STATEMENT:** The NYS Education Department Commissioner’s regulation defines one of the school bus monitor’s duties is to assist the school bus driver with maintaining proper student behavior on the bus. Monitors are not mandated nor are the costs covered by state aid, unless there is a student on the bus who requires a monitor via their IEP. Since student safety is of the utmost importance, advocacy is still required in this area.

## UPDATES

### UPDATE #1:

#### **COMPREHENSIVE K-12 DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION – 2010 (U-'02);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge SED and the Legislature to mandate and fund comprehensive evidence-based K-12 drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse prevention education, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge school districts to *(remove: form substance abuse education coalition, to develop and oversee prevention programs in their schools. These coalitions should be encouraged to include all interested parties such as law enforcement, media, community, parents, teachers, administrators, students and health care professionals.)* join community substance abuse prevention coalitions to work in partnership with other key stakeholders to reduce local substance abuse, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that all evidence-based substance abuse prevention program *(remove: s be evaluated regularly to measure effectiveness. Programs shall be modified based on evaluation and trends in student attitudes and behaviors.)* **implementation be monitored and improved on a regular basis. Prevention initiatives shall be modified based on assessment of current substance use trends, as well as student, family, and community attitudes and behaviors.**

**STATEMENT:** Although there have been school programs addressing substance use with the goal of prevention, we are now seeing an enormous increase in drug abuse. Programs have been in use for decades without effect. PTA recognizes the need for prevention education in our communities. Only programs with a scientific basis and continuous assessment and adjustment should be in place. In order to determine which substance abuse prevention programs are proven to be effective, districts need to select initiatives from the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). NREPP-approved programs have all been reviewed and approved to determine effectiveness. Access to NREPP is free and is available to the public. This task requires a community coalition of schools, families, health care, law enforcement, and other stakeholders. The schools alone cannot achieve success on this front.

### UPDATE #2:

#### **COMPULSORY EDUCATION – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support legislation that would amend the Education Law to change the compulsory education attendance age to *(remove: seventeen)* **eighteen.**

**STATEMENT:** In an analysis of the national compulsory age legislation, 30% of states have compulsory education laws to eighteen. The NYS Education Department Regulations Section 3205 – Title IV, Article 65, Part I, 2.a provides an exception that if a minor completes a four-year high school course of study, they are exempt from the compulsory age requirement.

### **UPDATE #3**

#### **USE OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS – 2010 (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., seek and support legislation that would ban or restrict the use of polystyrene products at all state and public school facilities until infrastructure is in place to recycle these products, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge the state to encourage local municipalities to issue their own ban or restriction on polystyrene products until infrastructure is in place to recycle these products, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that NYS PTA and its constituent units work to eliminate or restrict the use of polystyrene products at all PTA-sponsored events until recycling infrastructure is available to recycle these products, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA encourage legislation that would further the recycling capabilities of all polystyrene products throughout the entire state of New York.

**STATEMENT:** Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is not yet widely recycled. We are recommending expanding infrastructure, which includes collection of used polystyrene items in public containers through processing to creation of new products.

### **UPDATE #4**

#### **HAZARDS FROM LAND, WATER, AIR, NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support federal and state programs such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the “Super Fund”, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

*(remove: , 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.)*

**STATEMENT:** This resolution has been updated to remove the second resolved as a result of the NYS PTA resolution entitled *Mercury Reduction in the Environment*.

**UPDATE: #5**

**ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REFORM STATE AID TO EDUCATION FORMULAS – 2010 (R-'03);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage the NYS Legislature to establish a task force **that includes all key stakeholders** to study current and proposed school aid formulas and develop a funding solution that is adequate, equitable, predictable, and understandable.

**STATEMENT:** There is a question among all key stakeholders around the equity, predictability, and adequacy of the state's foundation formula and other aids. Therefore, a task force comprised of New York State Education Department (NYSED), school boards, school leaders, teachers, parents, and other key stakeholders is necessary.

**UPDATE #6**

**SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., oppose any cuts in **federal children's nutritional support programs, including but not limited to** the National School Lunch Program, **School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urge Congress to reauthorize **child nutrition programs and SNAP** (*remove: school lunch and breakfast programs and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)*), and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the NYS PTA urge school districts and schools (*remove: that do not yet have them,*) **to operate school breakfast/lunch programs** where there is a demonstrated need. (*remove: to initiate them and operate them in accordance with the federal guidelines even though they may no longer be required by law.*)

**STATEMENT:** According to the National Center for Children in Poverty: "About 15 million children in the United States – 21% of all children – live in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold, a measurement that has been shown to underestimate the needs of families. Research shows that, on average, families need an income of about twice that level to cover basic expenses. Using this standard, 43% of children live in low-income families."

NYS PTA will continue to support federal programs that fund nutritional support to children and their families, including school lunch and breakfast, summer feeding, WIC, and SNAP.

**UPDATE: #7**

**BACKGROUND CHECKS OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES – 2010, (U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge school districts to *(remove: do thorough background checks of school employees before employment and to request verification)* **verify** that background checks are performed on employees of companies under contract with the school district **or any persons in an employee, consultant, or trainee/internship situation not covered by SAVE (Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act)** who may come in direct contact with the school district's children, and be it further

**RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge school districts' boards of education to have specific policies that define what appropriate background checks should be.**

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is being updated to reflect that according to the NYS Education Law and Regulations, all applicants for employment in public schools, charter schools or BOCES must have fingerprint background checks. Certain non-school district personnel who meet specific criteria must be fingerprinted. These include: employees of contract service providers who are placed within the district buildings for more than five (5) days per school year and have direct contact with students. Examples: psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, translators, and counselors; guest lecturers/artists-in-residence placed in a school for more than five (5) days per school year, sports officials, and unpaid coaches. However, there are employment/other situations where NY State Education Department fingerprint processing is not allowed because they are not covered by the SAVE legislation. This includes non-certified special education school employees, student employees, outside consultants with direct contact with students for five (5) days or less, unpaid student interns or student teachers, and bus drivers who have been cleared for employment pursuant to sections 509-cc, 509-d and/or 1229-d of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.  
(<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tsei/ospra/fingerprintingcharts.html>)

**UPDATE #8:**

**MANDATED FIRE DRILLS – 2010 (R-'03, U-'96, R-'89);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the New York State Education Department to consider amending the requirement of mandated fire/**lockdown/lockout** drills so that at least one drill occurs annually during non-**traditional** *(remove: classroom)* situations. *(remove: and before/after school instructions for all building occupants)*

**STATEMENT:** NYS Education Department requires twelve fire drills to be conducted during each school year. Within these twelve drills, four must be lock-down drills and eight evacuation drills. These drills are conducted during the school day. The statute currently states that if there are activities not during the school day, the principal or their designated faculty in charge of the building requires the person in charge of the program/event notify those in attendance at the beginning of procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. However, while many school districts are facilitating drills during non-traditional situations, they are not mandated by the NYS Education Department. Examples that can be considered non-traditional situations include but are not limited to: before and after school activities and sporting events.

## RESCISSIONS

### **RESCISSION #1**

#### **3020-A HEARINGS – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support modification to Education Law 3020-a to expedite the resolution of charges while preserving the rights of the teacher or administrator.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is being rescinded because expedited 3020-a disciplinary hearings significantly control the timeline for hearings. The more dictated timelines were enacted in the 2015 state budget bill, so there is no longer a need for the resolution.

### **RESCISSION: #2**

#### **PROTECTING YOUTH IN CULTS – 2010 (R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge enforcement of all compulsory education, abuse, neglect and health laws for those minor children being raise by “cults”, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA support legislation that will enable the courts, upon sufficient evidence that radical changes in behavior have coincided with an individual’s close association with a certain group, to grant parents conservatorship for a reasonable period of time over their child.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is being rescinded. The first resolved is already covered by several of our existing resolutions. These include the compulsory education resolution, as well as resolutions contained in the Health and Safety section, Juvenile Protection section, and Parent and Family Life section of “Where We Stand”. The second resolved is covered by NYS guardianship laws.