

New York State

PTA

everychild. onevoice.



Be It Resolved!

- *Learn how to create and submit a brand new resolution*
- *Learn what a PTA statement of concern is and how could you help to develop one*

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NYS PTA Leadership Webinar Series – Jan 2018

Framework: A Vision/Mission

Our PTA Vision

**Making every child's potential a reality by
establishing the New York State Congress
of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
(NYS PTA)**

**as the premier organization for parent involvement
and advocacy for all children.**

Our PTA Mission

- **A powerful voice for all children**
- **A relevant resource for families and communities**
- **A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child**

What is a Resolution?



Resolution= a **statement** on an issue, concern, or problem that:

- Establishes an official PTA **position**
- Formalizes our **research-based** position
- Proposes **action** in the form of an original main motion
- Comes before convention **delegates** for their consideration and adoption
- Upon adoption, becomes part of NYS PTA's "Where We Stand"

How Do Resolutions Fit Into PTA Advocacy?

THEY:

- **Unify and EMPOWER** members
- Tell others **what PTA stands for**: concrete positions on specific issues
- Provide the basis to **promote and influence**

EDUCATION

LEGISLATION

POLICY

PROGRAM



Resolutions + Action => Power

Where Do We Find Resolutions?

Upon adoption,
Resolutions become
part of the
official NYS PTA
Advocacy Document
“Where We Stand”

- Explanation-Key
- Table of Contents
- 14 Categories
- Position Papers
- Index-Keyword

WHERE WE STAND 2015

THE BASIS FOR *ACTION*

New York State
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Where We Stand is the official *position* document of the New York State PTA. It is comprised of resolution *statements* adopted by convention delegates. These statements are intended to guide members as to what *action* to take on specific issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

Resolutions that appear in this document are reconsidered within seven years of their original adoption or reaffirmation. At seven year increments, they are reintroduced to convention delegates. By majority vote, delegates determine whether to adopt positions that have been recommended for *retention* (reaffirmation) or *update*, or to be *rescinded*. A resolution may be rescinded from this document when the action(s) in the resolved clauses has been taken. Rescinded resolutions are entered into an ongoing record of retired resolutions. Action may be taken through legislation, regulation or program. Delegates may also be asked to adopt a position(s) in the form of a *new* resolution, one that has not been previously presented to the delegate body. Resolutions are arranged from the most recently adopted retention(s), update(s) and new resolution(s) to the oldest within one of 14 issue categories.

The PTA is effective only through the support and action of its members. Once positions are adopted, the NYS PTA relies on local units, councils and regions to educate members and the public on the issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy.

KEY:

(R-) Retention – convention delegates voted to retain a position after seven years, and wording remains as originally submitted.

(U-) Update – convention delegates voted to retain after seven years, but wording has been changed or removed from the original position.

SED State Education Department

NYS New York State

HOW TO READ DATES:

Most recent year of adoption, followed by (“R-” or “U-” plus the year(s) submitted).

Examples – Retention: 2013 (R-’06); Update: 2013 (U-’06); New: 2013

The statements for *Action* that appear in this document are the “resolved” clauses of resolutions, numbered and written as adopted by convention delegates. Since NYS PTA is a branch of the National PTA, it is important to refer to National PTA’s **Legislative Program** as an additional action guide.

AN EXAMPLE RESOLUTION

SCHOOL NURSES – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourages 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 urges the State Education Department to mandate a full-time, registered nurse in every school building.



ACTION comes in ***VARIOUS FORMS***

What does the resolution say needs to be done?

- To **educate** or **raise awareness**
- To create or change **policy** or **program**
- To support or encourage **legislation**

***MEANS: Letters, e-mail, phone, testimony, presentations.
Dialogue with school boards, administrators, legislators,
and policy makers!***

Need to Write a New Resolution?

Step #1: IDENTIFY YOUR ISSUE

- Something that bothers or energizes you
- Something that needs to be done
- Need to create new or change existing law, regulation or policy
- Check: *What you want done agrees with PTA mission and policies*
- *Position is not already in "Where We Stand"*
- *Proposed action has statewide application or broader relevance*

YOU HAVE DECIDED A RESOLUTION IS NECESSARY AND YOU ARE READY

Writing a Resolution

Step # 2: RESEARCH THE ISSUE

- Set up schedule: allow enough time
 - Check existing laws and regulations
 - Use a variety of resources
 - Research thoroughly
 - Keep a record of research and sources
 - Review/check information collected
- ...and if you still think action is necessary,



YOU ARE READY TO WRITE YOUR RESOLUTION!

Writing a Resolution (cont'd)

Step #3: DRAFT YOUR TEXT

- Clearly set forth what you want done and by whom
- Decide what specific actions PTA should take to address issue
- Each ***ACTION statement*** becomes a ***RESOLVED CLAUSE***
- Use a logical sequence of statements to explain rationale (reasons) for your resolved clauses
- List reasons from general to specific
- Each reason needs three (3) pieces of evidence to support
- **RATIONALE = *WHY* = *WHEREAS CLAUSES***

Writing the Final Draft



Now put the steps together...
But first, *reverse the order!*

the **Why (Whereas)** goes first
the ***Action (Resolved)*** follows

** You are now ready to present your resolution to your unit, council, region FOR APPROVAL*

Submit Your Resolution

The Final Steps...

- **Be adopted by sponsor PTA**
- **Be received (not postmarked) in NYS PTA office no later than APRIL 15**
- **Be accompanied by:**
 - **Cover sheet**
 - **Narrative Summary**
 - **Table of contents**
 - **References**
 - **Pertinent background information**
 - *Signatures!*

So, when we talk about how to carry out the PTA vision and mission, resolutions are the first step...

- **towards effective advocacy.**
- **In advocacy, we lend our *"voices"* on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.**
- **In advocacy, we *mobilize* for action.**
- ***Resolutions are the foundations that inform and guide our words and actions on behalf of all children and youth.***

...But statements of concern also represent a way for our members to tell us directly about an issue that concerns them...

- **They can be written by an individual or group, a unit, a council, or a region**
- **They generally revolve around a current issue for which the PTA does not yet have a position or resolution or for which there is evolving information that may change the situation**
 - **Example: during the Common Core testing period, at the 2014 Convention, the Niagara Region PTA read a statement of concern asking for additional details to be added to NYS PTA's position paper and advocacy around testing**
 - **Example: At the 2017 Convention, several members read a statement of concern about organizations purporting to treat opioid addiction, but were for-profit and not in the best interest of the public.**

How you can write a statement of concern

- **Do your research**
- **Make sure it is not too general: what is the concern and what is your recommended plan of action?**
- **Talk to your unit, council, and region: do they share this concern? Do they want to work with you on it?**
- **Decide who will present the statement of concern at Convention**
- **Know the Rules:**
 - **No one person may speak for more than 2 minutes**
 - **Read them after the resolutions business of Convention has concluded**
 - **Go to Microphone 3, personal privilege**

Any questions?



Contact Information

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**The NYS PTA Resolutions Committee
thanks you for taking time to attend this workshop
and wishes you an outstanding Convention weekend.**

**By learning and working together,
We *will* make a difference!**

2017 Resolutions Committee

Lisa Christoffel, Resolutions Coordinator/Committee Chair

Amany Dgheim, Region Director

Pat Assortato, Nassau Region Director

Joyce Cattani, Special Education Specialist

Anne Ehrlich, Health and Wellness Specialist

Dana Platin, NYS PTA Vice President for Advocacy

Candy Ditkowski, Literacy Specialist

Kim Blasiak, Family Engagement Coordinator

Cathy Romano, Education Coordinator

Susanne Smoller, Legislation Coordinator

Lucille Vitale, Health and Wellness Coordinator

PowerPoint based on The Resolutions Puzzle by L. Ajemian