

To: All Unit/Council Presidents

Date: September 24, 2020

Re: Resolutions for the NYS PTA Annual Business Meeting 2020



On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, we are proud to present this year's Resolutions for your consideration.

NYS PTA delegates will vote on these resolutions at the **2020 Annual Business Meeting** to be held virtually on November 13-15, 2020.

At your next PTA meeting, you should discuss these Resolutions with your members and vote on whether or not you support them. Then, when your members attend the virtual business meeting, they can carry that information with them to help inform them when they vote.

IMPORTANT FOR THIS YEAR:

- We will hold a virtual caucus to review this Resolutions Packet where we will answer any questions you may have on Thursday, October 29 at 7:30 pm. Please watch your email, our website and social media for more details; and
- Because of our virtual format for the Annual Business Meeting, ALL amendments MUST be submitted, and received by NYS PTA **no later than November 6 at 4:00 pm**. Please email your amendment(s) to secretary@nyspta.org.

Resolutions are official NYS PTA positions and are the platform from which we advocate. All of our positions are located in **Where We Stand** and **Basic Policy**, which gives a broader overview of general positions.

The committee has been preparing and researching the 10 Retentions and 11 Updates that will be voted on at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting by the delegates state wide. There are no 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.
- *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 Once rescinded, a resolution becomes part of NYS PTA's historical record.

We also have two new Resolutions for consideration!

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to "seeing" you virtually at the Annual Business Meeting this November!

Patrice Rachlin
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2020 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

Retention # 1

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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.

Statement: The Bureau of Tobacco Control of the New York State Department of Health continues to administer the state's Tobacco Control Program (TCP). The Program aims to reduce illness, disability, and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure, and to alleviate the social and economic burdens caused by tobacco use.

Retention # 2

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. (NYS PTA) urge the New York State Education Department 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.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. Gifted and Talented students should still have the opportunity to benefit from appropriate programs that will nurture and develop their individual talents.

Retention # 3

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 for new and existing educational mandates.

Statement: This resolution should be retained because there is still a need for State-provided funding for new and existing educational mandates.

Retention # 4

Transferring of Records – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) urge the New York State Education Department (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 ensure the timely transfer of records, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS 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.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. Guidelines and policies that directly speak to any appropriate timeframe for the expeditious transfer of student records for the general student population can be found in FERPA and IDEA.

Retention # 5

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS 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 NYS PTA continue to promote and support legislation that would ensure sufficient funding for services to victims of domestic violence in NYS.

Statement: This resolution should be retained to continue to advocate for funding and support for victims of domestic violence and for their families. There needs to be continued support to fund mental health, education, and other support services for these victims and families.

Retention # 6

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. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS 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.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. A representative from a school's local PTA unit should be involved in ensuring that the school's textbook selection policy is followed. This resolution is also in line with NYS PTA's position paper on the selection of textbook materials for schools.

Retention # 7

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. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS 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 NYS 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 NYS PTA advocate for full funding for full-day kindergarten programs, staffing, and facilities.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. NYS PTA still encourages councils and units to urge school districts to strengthen kindergarten programs and to advocate for full funding of these programs. Additionally, we ask NYSED to disseminate information by which school districts can evaluate full-day kindergarten programs and engage in research on the effectiveness of full-day programs.

Retention # 8

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

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

Resolved the NYS 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.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. While NYS has been extremely proactive in passing gun law legislation, newly-passed legislation regarding stored ammunition has not yet gone into effect. Additionally, NYS PTA continues to encourage units and councils to disseminate information regarding gun safety and gun and ammunition storage.

Retention # 9

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.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. Helmets are only required on passengers and operators 14 and under, and no passengers under 1 are permitted.

Retention # 10

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS PTA encourage enforcement of all existing statutes and regulations on the use of child safety seats.

Statement: This resolution should be retained. While there are grants available for free child safety seats, only designated agencies and organizations can apply for them through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. In 2019, only 60 agencies throughout the state applied for these grants. PTAs should also continue to advocate for enforcement of all existing laws regarding the use of child safety seats.

UPDATES (NEW IS BOLD UNDERSCORED, STRIKE THROUGH IS REMOVED)

Update # 1

Parents and/or Guardians On Shared Decision-Making Committees – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 and/or guardians as active participants, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA recommend that units, councils, and regions sponsor training for parents and/or guardians on the process of shared decision-making, group dynamics, interpersonal skills, and listening skills, 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 and/or guardians are included in that training.

Statement: This resolution should be updated to reflect the more inclusive language of 'parents and/or guardians' instead of 'parents' alone. The regulations under ESSA require family engagement plans for all Title I schools, but this resolution is still needed as we must continue to advocate for parents and/or guardians to be involved in the decision-making processes in their schools.

Update # 2

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 and families, students, and the community on the importance of full access to education for homeless children and youth, including emancipated youth, as provided for in the McKinney-Vento Act.

Statement: There are still thousands of students living in shelters or designated as homeless during the school year. We need to continue to advocate for these children and provide them with access to quality education.

Update # 3

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

Resolved the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS PTA urge the New York State Education Department (NYSED) 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 NYS 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 NYS PTA encourage the NYSED to accept collegiate level Environmental Science Courses as fulfilling both general and content area requirements for science teacher for teachers seeking general science certification.

Statement: This resolution is being updated to reflect the current New York State Education Department science teacher certification requirements.

Update # 4

Food Animal Production and Antibiotic Resistance – 2013

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 aquaculture (farmed seafood), and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to improve labeling of meat, ~~and~~ poultry, and farmed seafood 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 and farmed seafood 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 and seafood 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 aquaculture 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.~~

Statement: This resolution has been updated to remove the last resolve due to a change in NYS PTA procedure for submission of resolutions to National PTA and to include farmed seafood. The remainder of the Resolution continues to be relevant because while the FDA has taken some very positive action in the area of meat and poultry production, there are still exceptions such as off-label use and allowances that leave gaps that need to be closed. As recently as 2019, a drug company was still pushing antibiotics for growth production at a trade show. There is still a need for legislative action to address the issues raised in this resolution. Aquaculture has not been addressed at all, even though it is contributing to antibiotic resistance in the same manner as has been seen in farm animals.

Update # 5

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. (NYS PTA) 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 lunchroom, and **wherever food is consumed**, and be it further

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

Statement: This resolution needs to be updated to reflect that the consumption of food is not only in the cafeteria but elsewhere throughout the day including in the classroom, on field trips, and off-campus activities.

Update # 6

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. (NYS PTA) urge the New York 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 NYS PTA encourage its units and councils to **adhere to public health and school district guidelines to protect children and adults from infections** and participate in infection control and universal precautions **training** in conjunction with the school district for those members volunteering in the school.

Statement: This resolution needs to be updated in order to encompass volunteers learning and practicing measures to prevent the spread of any and all infectious diseases when in schools.

Update # 7

Digital (Internet) Safety – 2013 (R-'06)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) will work to inform and educate parents **and families**, students, educators, school **district** staff and communities on the dangers associated with the **use of digital technology and** ~~internet, wireless and other electronic~~ communication, and be it further

Resolved that NYS PTA units, councils and regions will work to heighten parents' **and families'** technologic awareness and skills and encourage the use of **digital** ~~internet~~ safety strategies to ensure the safety of children and youth, and to encourage responsible and ethical use of **digital technology and communication** ~~internet~~ resources, and be it further

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

Resolved that the NYS 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 digital technology and the internet, ~~wireless and other electronic~~ communications.

Statement: This resolution should be updated to reflect the more inclusive ‘parents and families’ term that is consistent with NYS PTA’s documentation. In addition, replacing ‘internet’ with ‘digital’ encompasses apps, social media, and technology tools that children, parents, and families are using and about which they should be educated. This is also consistent with the language used by National PTA.

Update # 8

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) seek and support legislation to increase funding for prevention and intervention programs for high-risk youth, i.e. (e.g. mentoring programs, after-school activities, substance use abuse counseling, etc.), as well as the implementation of restorative justice and practices, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to increase the programs (e.g. mental health, sex offense, and substance use treatment 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 NYS PTA seek and support legislation to create aftercare programs for juvenile offenders once they return to their neighborhoods and communities.

Statement: This resolution has been updated to reflect the recommendations of the New York State Educational Conference Board to implement restorative practices to address student behavioral issues and achieve positive outcomes. NYS PTA should continue to advocate for prevention and intervention programs for high-risk youth. Legislation is needed to create and fund programs to support treatment and care of high-risk youth.

Update # 9

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 that the NYS PTA encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate parents and families about youth suicide, and be it further

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

Statement: This resolution is being updated to reflect inclusive language. In 2018 NYSED issued Mental Health Amendments, however, it is still an ongoing problem not uniformly addressed at the district and school building level.

Increased awareness for parents and families as well as training for teachers and support staff continue to be necessary. In addition, survivors of those who have committed suicide are at risk for a prolonged form of grief called Complicated Grief. Supports need to be put into place for the survivors of suicide and for those who survive suicide attempts.

Update # 10

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. (NYS PTA) 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, families, and children on the dangers of crossing multilane highways.

Statement: This resolution has been updated to reflect inclusive language. The remainder of the resolution has been unchanged because there has been no legislative action to date.

Update # 11

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) 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 NYS 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 NYS PTA seek and support legislation that requires seat belts on charter buses, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS 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 NYS PTA seek and support legislation that would require 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.

Statement: The fifth resolve is being updated to clarify that legislation is still needed. The school district and specifically the superintendent must ensure that the drivers and equipment of chartered buses meet the same standards and requirements as those of the school district transportation services.

NEW RESOLUTIONS

New Resolution #1

Maximum Temperature in the School Setting

Whereas there are negative impacts on students and staff when the room climate in the school setting exceeds maximum healthy temperatures, and

Whereas there are no regulations that establish a maximum room temperature in school buildings, therefore be it

Resolved that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) seek and support that regulations be established to set a healthy maximum room temperature in school buildings, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA urge its units, councils, and regions to educate parents, families, teachers, other school personnel, and community members regarding the signs and symptoms of all heat-related illnesses.

New Resolution #2

Cannabidiol (CBD) and Related Products

Whereas the manufacturing of Cannabidiol (CBD) and related products is unregulated, with the exclusion of the medication Epidiolex, and

Whereas labeling of ingredients in CBD and related products can be inaccurate, and

Whereas advertising and marketing of CBD and related products may make false or unsubstantiated health claims, and

Whereas more research is necessary to understand the impacts and determine the medically appropriate usage of CBD and related products, therefore be it

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA), urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish regulations for the manufacturing and labeling of CBD and related products, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA encourage the education of youth, parents, families, educators, community members, and medical community regarding possible benefits and risks of usage of CBD and related products, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA support the passage of legislation to enforce the regulation of CBD and related products.

2020 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS CHECKLIST

RETENTIONS	YES	NO
1. COMPREHENSIVE NYS TOBACCO CONTROL & PREVENTION PROGRAM – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99)	_____	_____
2. DEFINITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)	_____	_____
3. FUNDING FOR EDUCATION MANDATES – 2013 (U-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)	_____	_____
4. TRANSFERRING OF RECORDS – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)	_____	_____
5. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)	_____	_____
6. CHALLENGES TO TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL REVIEW – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)	_____	_____
7. STRENGTHENING THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, R-'85)	_____	_____
8. FIREARMS ACCIDENT PREVENTION LAW – 2013 (U-'06, R-'99, U-'92)	_____	_____
9. BICYCLE HELMET LAW – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, U-'89)	_____	_____
10. CHILD SAFETY SEATING - 2013 (R-'99, U-'92)	_____	_____
 UPDATES		
1. PARENTS ON SHARED DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEES – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)	_____	_____
2. HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH – 2013 (R-'06)	_____	_____
3. IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99, U-'92)	_____	_____
4. FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE – 2013	_____	_____
5. TRAINING OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN THE CARE OF A CHOKING VICTIM – 2013 (R-'06)	_____	_____
6. INFECTION CONTROL AND UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS – 2013 (U-'05, R-'98, R-'91)	_____	_____
7. INTERNET SAFETY – 2013 (U-'06)	_____	_____
8. JUVENILE OFFENDERS - PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND FOLLOW-UP – 2013 (R-'06, R-'99)	_____	_____
9. SUICIDE PREVENTION – 2013 (U-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)	_____	_____
10. REVISING NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHILD SAFETY ZONE POINT SYSTEM – 2013	_____	_____
11. CHARTER BUS SAFETY – 2013 (R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)	_____	_____
 NEW RESOLUTIONS		
1. MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IN THE SCHOOL SETTING	_____	_____
2. CANNABIDIOL (CBD) AND RELATED PRODUCTS	_____	_____