

# NYS PTA

## 2021 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

### ***RETENTIONS***

#### **Retention # 1**

##### **PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH FROM THE INFLUENCE OF TOBACCO USE IN MOVIES – (R-'14, R-'07)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. endorses and supports 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution should be retained, as there are still tobacco depictions in movies that are not labeled by the Motion Picture Association. Oversight is also still needed, as some companies (like Twentieth Century Fox) have no policy about labeling the movies with tobacco warnings. Exposure to on-screen smoking is linked to an increase in tobacco use in youth.

#### **Retention #2**

##### **SOIL CONTAMINATION ON SCHOOL GROUNDS – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) supports 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 NYS PTA supports legislation to designate levels of safety for all ground and soil contaminates on school grounds, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA supports legislation to designate levels of acceptable exposure to children on school playgrounds and athletic fields, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages existing agencies, such as the NYS Department of Health, Department 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is retained because current research still supports the need for continued advocacy regarding ground and soil contaminants on school grounds.

### **Retention #3**

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL LOTTERY AID TO EDUCATION – (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urges and supports 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is retained. NYS Lottery funding falls short of the 45% that has been promised in existing legislation. NYS PTA should continue to advocate for transparency and accountability in the use of NYS Lottery funds to supplement state education funding and not as a replacement to expected state funding.

### **Retention #4**

#### **REASONABLE ACCESS TO FOOD DURING SCHOOL – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urges 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 than 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is retained because there needs to be more advocacy for NY Senate Bill S2894 becoming law. Giving each student a reasonable timeframe to consume their lunch during the school day would coincide with the USDA recommendation.

### **Retention #5**

#### **DISCHARGING OF FIREARMS WITHIN SCHOOL AREAS – (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) seeks and supports 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 urges local cities, towns and villages to enact their own zoning ordinances which will not allow the discharge of firearms.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is retained. While NYS PTA supports the increase in gun-free school zones, we recognize through our diversity, equity, and inclusion lens that the expansion of gun-free zones may cause a disparate impact on certain populations. We continue to support sound social justice reforms, and we as NYS PTA encourage the development and implementation of preventative programs and services that identify and support at-risk youth.

## **UPDATES (NEW IS BOLD AND UNDERLINED, REMOVED IS ~~STRIKE THROUGH AND ITALICIZED~~)**

### **Update #1**

#### **ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND YOUTH – 2014**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to continue to issue regulations that will address the manufacturing, ingredients, advertising, marketing, and sale of electronic cigarettes, and be it further

~~***Resolved** that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation that would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in public places, and be it further*~~

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urges their units and councils to continue to educate youth, parents, families, 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 their convention.*~~

**STATEMENT:** This resolution should be updated. Legislation was passed and regulations were issued in 2017 and beyond to address the concerns in Resolved #2. The last Resolved statement should be removed because National PTA adopted a resolution in 2016 to advocate for this.

### **Update # 2**

#### **SOCIAL HOST LAW – 2014**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) encourages and supports legislation to adopt **and expand** statewide social host laws that would prohibit adults from providing alcohol, **recreational marijuana (in any form), and other controlled substances including but not limited to opioids, or** knowingly allowing the consumption of alcohol, **opioids, recreational marijuana, or controlled substances** by youth under the age of 21 who are not their children, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA, its units, councils, and regions **educate** ~~provide information to~~ students, parents, **families**, and community members regarding social host laws.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution should be updated to align with legislative efforts to expand NYS Social Host Law to include opioids and recreational marijuana. This resolution will support these legislative changes and continue to protect our children and youth from exposure to controlled substances.

### Update # 3

#### **DRUG TESTING IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) opposes urinalysis testing for drugs **without consent** for elementary and secondary students in schools, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages school districts to develop alternative methods for addressing suspected substance use by students, using school personnel who are trained in substance ~~abuse~~ **use** detection, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages units and councils to work with school districts to establish partnerships with licensed substance ~~abuse~~ **use and addiction** treatment and prevention agencies and seek funding for prevention, intervention, and “after-care” programs.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution should be updated to reflect current language and state policies for drug testing. The New York State School Boards Association and New York State School Attorneys state that urinalysis drug testing may be performed only if parental consent is received. Youth 18 and older must also give consent to be tested.

### Update #4

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

**Resolved** that the NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) urges educational institutions to create and deliver programs and make information available regarding **the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** ~~Privacy Laws~~ and health care proxies to young adults, parents, and guardians, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages educational institutions to make health care proxy forms available to students upon turning 18, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages PTA units and councils to educate parents, **guardians**, 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 their convention.~~

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated to reflect more inclusive language in Resolved #1 and #3, and Resolved #4 has been removed because this practice is no longer applicable. NYS PTA needs to continue to advocate for our students' privacy under HIPAA and to encourage educational institutions to make health care proxy forms available to students turning 18. Without these health care proxies in place, parents, and guardians will have no say in the health care of their child in cases of emergency or where the child cannot speak for themselves.

## Update #5

### 504 COMMITTEES – (R-'14, 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 **and/or guardian** 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.

**STATEMENT:** The resolution is updated to reflect inclusive language for guardians. No other changes have been made to the resolution.

## Update #6

### CELLULAR PHONE TOWERS – (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) **encourage local communities, parents, families, and school officials to support legislation** ~~supports legislation that would encourage local communities, including parents, guardians, families, 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 NYS PTA supports 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 NYS PTA seeks to educate local communities, parents, families, and school officials as to the current debate over the placement of cell towers and antennas.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated for clarity and to reflect inclusive language. The research on radio and microwave frequencies emitted from cell towers is still inconclusive as to the effects on humans, and we are continuing to seek the involvement of the local community, parents, families, and schools regarding the placement of cell towers and antennas.

## Update #7

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93)

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

**STATEMENT:** This resolution should be updated to encourage awareness of current health concerns, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Update #8

### PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)

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

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourages and supports 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 NYS PTA encourages education of children, youth, families, and communities regarding the need for conservation and water management.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated to add inclusive language as NYS PTA continues to advocate for the protection, conservation, and monitoring of groundwater supply and quality.

## Update # 9

### HERBAL CIGARETTES – (U-'14, U-'07, U-'00)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) encourages local units and councils to educate ~~parents, and~~ children, and youth, parents, and families about

the potential dangers of herbal cigarettes, including the Synthetic Cannabinoid Spice, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urges the State Education Department to update school health curricula to include information on the dangers of smoking herbal cigarettes.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated to have inclusive language for families. Herbal cigarettes pose a health risk, more education is needed about the dangers of their use, and they are still not included in NY State Health Curricula.

## Update #10

**SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH ~~PUPILS WITH SUPPORT SERVICE NEEDS~~** – (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, U-'86)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) encourages Boards of Education **and school administrators to create and implement procedures and policies** to identify at-risk children and youth and **to** provide needed services **including but not limited to those** already required by Commissioner's Regulations (~~CR~~), and be it further

**Resolved** that the New York State NYS PTA strongly supports collaborative efforts with non-school agencies to provide **access to programs and** services.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated to be more inclusive of school personnel and to widen accessibility to available support services. The title of the resolution is changed to more closely align with the intent of the original resolution.

## Update #11

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POVERTY** – (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) cooperates with agencies and organizations which advocate for children and youth in poverty, and be it further

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA supports local, state, and federal legislation to alleviate **the** isolation of the socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in our communities through specific programs **and supports, such as including but not limited to** more available day care, flexible work hours ~~for quality parenting~~, and other ~~beneficial actions~~ **initiatives that support children and youth in poverty.**

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is updated to reflect current formatting and inclusive language and to allow for programs and supports that benefit children and youth in poverty that may not be listed in the original resolved statement.

## ***RESCISSIONS***

### **Rescission #1**

#### **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) PARENT MEMBER– (R-'14, 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is rescinded, as Education law Section 200.3(a)(1)(viii) addresses the expansion of the designated time for parent member service from one year to five years. Advocacy for students with special needs will continue to be a top priority for NYS PTA. NYS PTA also has additional resolutions on supporting the concerns of our high-needs students.

### **Rescission #2**

#### **REINSTATE AND RESTRUCTURE THE REGENTS COMPONENT RETESTING SYSTEM – (U-'14, 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is rescinded. Since this resolution was adopted, the New York State Education Department and Board of Regents have developed, in conjunction with stakeholders, the new Pathways to Graduation. These Pathways have safety nets and avenues for students to pursue a Regents diploma. The Regents Component Retesting System has become obsolete. Further, the Board of Regents will be empaneling a task force to examine revisions to the current NYS Regents system and seek



solutions for other options to demonstrate proficiency. NYS PTA will continue to work with the Board of Regents on these initiatives and will serve on this task force.

### **Rescission #3**

#### **ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION – (R-'14, 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.

**STATEMENT:** This resolution is rescinded due to outdated language and does not reflect the current needs of our children and youth. This issue is being addressed by a new resolution that will be proposed at Convention: Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education.

## ***NEW***

### **NEW Resolution #1**

#### **Protection of and Support for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students**

**Whereas** transgender and gender non-conforming youth are at increased risk of violence, victimization, bullying, substance use, self-harm and suicidality, and experience inherent institutional biases, **AND**

**Whereas** it has been shown that to achieve positive physical and mental health outcomes transgender and gender non-conforming youth and their families should have access to mental health and medical assessments, appropriate support services, access to appropriate school facilities and programs, and inclusion of gender affirming, age- and

developmentally- appropriate education, and referrals for treatments if necessary, **AND**

**Whereas** more research is necessary to directly address the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming youth, to determine the impact of treatment and support on physical and mental health, and to advance policies that reduce discrimination and victimization based on gender identity and expression, **THEREFORE, BE IT**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) encourages schools to provide training and access to age- and developmentally- appropriate resources for educators, school-related professionals, families, and community members that affirm and support transgender and gender non-conforming youth, **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA urges the creation and implementation of comprehensive policies and practices specifically focused on the creation of a safe, inclusive, supportive, and accepting environment in schools free from harassment, intimidation and bullying, **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA supports the passage of legislation, enactment, and implementation of state and federal laws and regulations specifically recognizing transgender and gender non-conforming student rights to a safe, inclusive, supportive, and accepting environment in schools free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

### **Narrative Summary**

Transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youth experience significant bullying that has long-term impacts on their mental and physical health. National health organizations have called for the development of innovative strategies to address the needs of this population. It is important to provide inclusive, safe, and affirming environments where the youth feel comfortable discussing their identities and experiences in order to prevent negative health consequences and reduce stigma. Collaboration between diverse stakeholders including clinicians, medical and public health professionals, researchers, government officials, school leaders, community members, and parents and families is needed to generate strategies to prevent bullying and provide appropriate and necessary support for transgender and other gender expansive youth.

## **NEW Resolution #2**

### **Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education**

**Whereas** New York State does not currently implement a Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education Curriculum, **AND**

**Whereas** it has been shown that adolescents who receive Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education have a lower rate of adolescent pregnancy, increased use of contraception, and decrease in sexually transmitted infections, **THEREFORE, BE IT**

**Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) supports the creation and implementation of a Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education program that includes learning standards aligned with National Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education learning standards and model curricula to facilitate uniform implementation, **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**Resolved** that the NYS PTA supports the passage of education law and regulation that develops and implements Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education learning standards and K-12 curriculum.

### **Narrative Summary**

This resolution supports the implementation of a comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sexuality education curriculum in New York State public schools. Comprehensive sexuality health education is a curriculum-based and age-appropriate process of teaching and learning about all aspects of sexuality including but not limited to cognitive, emotional, physical, social, and cultural aspects. The goal of comprehensive sexuality health education is to empower students with information that will enable them to take care of their health and well-being, respect bodily autonomy, and provide the tools needed to develop social and individual relationships rooted in respect and clear consent. Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education standards present sexual development as a natural, healthy part of human growth. These standards support schools in improving academic performance and provide parameters for teaching sexuality education and skills at different grade levels in a medically accurate, culturally sensitive, and age-appropriate manner. Comprehensive sexuality health education ultimately encourages higher academic performance and minimizes high school dropout rates by helping to reduce bullying, teen pregnancy, and sexual harassment and violence.