

NYS PTA

2021 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

Retention # 1 – Retained

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.

Retention #2 – Retained

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.

Retention #3 – Retained

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.

Retention #4 – Retained

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.

Retention #5 – Retained

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.

UPDATES

Update #1 – Adopted as presented

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 urges their units and councils to continue to educate youth, parents, families, school boards, and local officials on the dangers of e-cigarettes.

Update # 2 – Adopted as presented

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 students, parents, families, and community members regarding social host laws.

Update # 3 – Pulled for consideration; to be reconsidered Convention

2022 DRUG TESTING IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)

Update #4 – Adopted as presented

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) 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 HIPAA, and the importance of proper management of a young adult's right to privacy.

Update #5 – Adopted as presented

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.

Update #6 – Adopted as presented

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 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.

Update #7 – Adopted as presented

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 safest levels for indoor air quality in schools.

Update #8 – Adopted as presented

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.

Update # 9 – Adopted as presented

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 children, 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.

Update #10 – Adopted as presented

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, 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.

Update #11 – Adopted as presented

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 and other initiatives that support children and youth in poverty.

RESCISSIONS

Rescission #1 – Rescinded

Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) PARENT MEMBER– (R-'14, R-'07, U-'00)

Rescission #2 – Rescinded

REINSTATE AND RESTRUCTURE THE REGENTS COMPONENT RETESTING SYSTEM – (U-'14, U-'07)

Rescission #3 – Rescinded

ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION – (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, U-'86)

NEW

NEW Resolution #1 – Adopted as presented

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.

NEW Resolution #2 – Adopted as presented

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.