



# WHERE WE STAND 2021-2022

## THE BASIS FOR *ACTION*

### INTRODUCTION

**Where We Stand is the official position document of New York State Parent Teacher Association (NYS 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determine whether to adopt positions that have been recommended for retention (reaffirmation) or update, or to be rescinded.

A resolution may be rescinded from this document when the action(s) in the resolved clauses has been taken. Rescinded resolutions are entered into an ongoing record of retired resolutions.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.

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.

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.

## **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 and approved.

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

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## **I. Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs**

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH FROM THE INFLUENCE OF TOBACCO USE IN MOVIES – 2021 (R-'14, R-'07)**

1. Endorse and support 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.

### **ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND YOUTH – 2021 (U-'14)**

1. Urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue regulations that will address the manufacturing, ingredients, advertising, marketing and sale of electronic cigarettes;
2. Urge its units and councils to continue to educate youth, parents, families, school boards and local officials on the dangers of e-cigarettes.

### **SOCIAL HOST LAW – 2021 (U-'14)**

1. Encourage and support legislation to adopt 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;
2. NYS PTA, its units, councils and regions provide information to students, parents, families, and community members regarding social host laws.

### **CANNABIDIOL (CBD) AND RELATED PRODUCTS – 2020**

1. Urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish regulations for the manufacturing and labeling of CBD and related products.
2. 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.
3. Support the passage of legislation to enforce the regulation of CBD and related products.

### **COMPREHENSIVE NYS TOBACCO CONTROL & PREVENTION PROGRAM – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, U-'99)**

1. Seek and support sustainable funding at the recommended CDC levels for the NYS Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, 2. Urge that the essential components of the NYS Department of Health Tobacco Control Program be maintained and enhanced.

#### **MARIJUANA – 2019 (U-'12, R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)**

1. Reaffirm its position against the legalization of marijuana, except for medical use approved by the Food and Drug Administration or NYS Law, and continue to work toward the education of children, parents, families and communities regarding the harmful effects from recreational marijuana use.

#### **UNDERAGE ACCESS RESULTING FROM THE DIRECT SHIPPING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – 2019 (U-'12, U-'05, R-'98)**

1. Seek and support legislation that would make the sale of alcoholic beverages over the Internet to minors and the subsequent delivery to minors a felony with increased fines and penalties.
2. Seek and support legislation that would prohibit marketing via social media, as well as traditional advertising platforms, geared to attracting youth.
3. Urge units and councils to educate their members about the ease of access to alcohol on the Internet, by mail, by telephone and through the use of credit/debit cards and any other electronic payment methods.
4. Urge units and councils to educate their members about the risks involved and the need for vigilance in safeguarding credit cards.

#### **RAISING THE MINIMUM SALES AGE OF TOBACCO AND OTHER NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS TO 21 – 2018**

1. Urge the raising of the sale of cigarettes and ENDS to 21 years of age statewide.
2. Urge its units, councils and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of tobacco and ENDS and how they affect middle school and high school aged students.

#### **INFLUENCE OF MEDIA ON TOBACCO USE – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04)**

1. Encourage units/councils to educate the public that viewing media that depict tobacco use greatly increases the probability that children and youth will experiment with and become addicted to tobacco.

#### **SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN SUPERMARKETS – 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. Oppose any legislation permitting the sale of liquor and wine in supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE K-12 DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION – 2017 (U-'10, U-'02)**

1. Urge SED and the Legislature to mandate and fund comprehensive evidence-based K-12 drug, alcohol and other substance abuse prevention education.
2. Urge school districts to join community substance abuse prevention coalitions to work in partnership with other key stakeholders to reduce local substance abuse.
3. That all evidence-based substance abuse prevention program 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.

#### **DETOXIFICATION OF MINORS – 2016 (U-'09)**

1. Urge that public and private licensed detoxification services and substance use disorder treatment facilities for minors be made available within close proximity to an adolescent's area of residency at or above the level of access as available to adults.
2. Seek and support legislation that gives parents and guardians rightful authority over a minor to obtain mental and medical assessment of such minor in order to determine whether he/she requires involuntary detoxification and stabilization.
3. Seek and support legislation that would give substance use disorder treatment decision making authority to substance use disorder treatment professionals and remove authority from insurance companies.
4. Support funding for recovery from substance use disorders, such as the Federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) National Youth Recovery Initiative, be implemented throughout the state.
5. Urge its units, councils, and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of substance use disorder and the treatment options available for minors.

#### **SALE OF TOBACCO TO MINORS – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Urge local units to seek the cooperation of their local law enforcement agencies in enforcing the law banning the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products to minors and those local ordinances pertaining to it.
2. Urge its local units to communicate with their local governments expressing their desire to see stringent penalties for offense of these laws and to seek local ordinances banning cigarette machines, demanding their removal after first offense or at least regulating their locations within an establishment, making them less accessible.

#### **POINT OF SALE ACCESSIBILITY AND ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, U-'00)**

1. Urge and support legislation requiring that any establishment selling tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), or any other nicotine-containing products may not engage in point-of-sale advertising of these products, except in adult only settings.
2. Urge and support legislation that would prohibit any visible or audio advertising at the point of sale, where underage persons might be exposed.

## **DRUG TESTING IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS – 2014 (U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Oppose urinalysis testing for drugs for elementary and secondary students in schools.
2. Encourage school districts to develop alternative methods for addressing suspected substance use by students, using school personnel who are trained in substance abuse detection.
3. Encourage units and councils to work with school districts to establish partnerships with licensed substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies and seek funding for prevention, intervention and “after-care” programs.

## **II. Citizenship & Equality of Opportunity**

### **FAIR HOUSING – 2019 (U-'12, U-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge its units to be aware of discriminatory housing practices against families with children, particularly single-parent, minority, and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning) and others).
2. Urge its units to promote programs disseminating information of fair housing laws and the rights of individuals under those laws.
3. Support measures to strengthen existing laws to promote stronger enforcement of fair housing laws.

### **FINES AND/OR SERVICES FOR VANDALISM – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge that school districts and courts provide counseling or other preventive educational measures for all students who have been found guilty of vandalism to school property.
2. Urge that when courts find a minor guilty of vandalizing school property, school boards set restitution through the court in the form of service to the school community and fines to cover the cost of the vandalism to the legal limit.
3. If the vandals and/or their parents are unable to provide full monetary compensation, additional service to the school or community be sought in lieu of, or in addition to, the fines.
4. For those incidents of vandalism which are not brought to the courts, school districts adopt policies establishing consequences such as service to the school or community for the students involved.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT REGULATIONS FOR PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Oppose any changes in federal or state laws and/or regulations that could lead to delays or extensions of state deadlines regarding the evaluation and appropriate placement of children and youth with disabilities.
2. Oppose any changes in federal or state laws and/or regulations that would allow any increase in class size.
3. Urge the Commissioner of Education to strongly enforce all the current regulations regarding the education of children and youth with disabilities.

## **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90)**

1. Encourage development and support of the Community Schools Program in areas where needed and appropriate.
2. Promote continued allocation of the resources necessary for the continuance and expansion of the Community Schools Program.

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. PTA units in secondary schools, PTA councils and PTA districts be encouraged to have students on their boards.
2. Urge school boards and administrators to establish channels for regular dialogue with secondary school students representing a cross-section of the students enrolled in the school district.

## **PREJUDICE – 2015 (U-'08, U-'01, U-'95, R-'88)**

1. Express condemnation of all hate crimes, acts of desecration directed against houses of worship and cemeteries, and acts of violence, intimidation and harassment of individuals because of their actual or perceived race, ethnicity or religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, disability or other personal characteristics.
2. Support and encourage law enforcement agencies to continue to apprehend and, where applicable, prosecute individuals who are responsible for acts of racism, vandalism, discrimination and harassment.
3. Urge that all local PTA units and councils in cooperation with schools and community agencies aid in developing more effective programs in human relations, or encourage their school districts to use already developed curricula available through the State Education Department or other agencies, thereby encouraging the respect for the rights of all humanity.

## **MULTICULTURAL IN-SERVICE – 2015 (U-'08, U-'01, U-'94, R-'87)**

1. Support updates to the Commissioner's Regulations in line with NYS Teaching Standards (Element I.5, Element II.5, Element IV.1 and Element VI.3) to require all candidates for professional certification to receive culturally responsive training that would prepare them to serve the needs of a diverse student body.
2. PTA units and councils encourage their local school district to provide culturally responsive in-service instruction to teachers, administrators and other school-related personnel that would prepare them to serve the needs of students and families from diverse ethnicities and cultures.

### **III. Cooperative Role of Parents and Educational Professionals**

## **EDUCATION FOR HIPAA RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND HEALTH CARE PROXY – 2021 (U'-14)**



1. Urge 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;
2. Encourage educational institutions to make health care proxy forms available to students upon turning 18;
3. Encourage 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.

#### **504 COMMITTEES – 2021 (U-'14, R-'07, R-'00)**

1. Support a mandate in NYS 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.

#### **PARENTS AND/OR FAMILIES ON SHARED DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEES – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)**

1. Recommend that the NYS 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.
2. 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.
3. Recommend that units, councils and regions sponsor training for parents and/or guardians on the process of shared decision-making, group dynamics, interpersonal skills, listening skills.
4. 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.
5. Urge that school districts train the team together and that parents and/or guardians are included in that training.

#### **ABSENTEE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)**

1. To seek legislation that would repeal Sections 2c and 2d of NYS Education Law 3213.
2. Seek legislation that would require that persons in parental relationships of all school-aged students be notified that they may submit a written request for notification of a child's absence from school.
3. The written request includes the telephone number of the person or persons to be notified and any other information to facilitate communication.
4. Said notification take place by the most prompt and expedient manner possible by a person or persons authorized by the school district.
5. Urge its units and councils to educate persons in parental relationships as to the reasons for and significance of completion of the request for notification form.

## **PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge its regions, councils and units to place greater emphasis on training its members to analyze programs, curricula and school budgets and to better comprehend education law and school district policies and procedures, thereby preparing members to engage in more knowledgeable discussion with educators, school boards and legislators in order to convey priorities, innovative approaches and options necessary to maintain quality education for all children.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARENT MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE) AND THE COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97, U-'90)**

1. Support maintaining a parent member as a mandated member of the CPSE and CSE committees.
2. Urge the NYS Education Department's Office for Special Education Services to require training through the Special Education Training and Resource Center (SETRC) for the parent member on the CSE and CPSE.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. NYS Education Department advise and inform PTAs of the existence of all mandated school committees.
2. Urge the NYSED and the state and local agencies and the school boards to use the PTA to serve on mandated school committees concerning children, wherever appropriate.
3. NYS PTA and its regions make available parent representatives to serve wherever appropriate.
4. PTA units and councils make themselves available to their school districts to serve on school committees, wherever appropriate.

## **REGIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY PART 200 REGULATIONS – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Urge the State Education Department Regional Offices to maintain ongoing two-way communication, with parents from PTA/SEPTA and BOCES on a regular basis and share information through the state-funded parent centers.
2. Regional communication includes identification of any unmet needs within the region regarding the education of children with disabling conditions.
3. Regional reporting of data and evaluation of services provided to children with disabling conditions be shared with parents and educators.

## **INVOLVING PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION PLANS – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94)**

1. Urge the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents to amend Part 200.2 (c) of the Commissioner's Regulations to require that District Special Education Plans be a product of a committee

including parents, teachers and others, the specific number of participants and selection process being designated by the regulations.

2. That the parents be selected by school-related parent organizations that represent the interests of parents of students with special needs.
3. That the District Special Education Plans be required to include a long-term general direction of where each district plans to be in regard to the provision of special education services.
4. That the District Special Education Plans be required to include all program aspects of the provision of special education services.

## **IV. Education Emphasis**

### **COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION – 2021**

1. 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;
2. Support the passage of education law and regulation that develops and implements Comprehensive Sexuality Health Education learning standards and K-12 curriculum.

### **HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06)**

1. That NYS PTA units, councils and regions 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.

### **DEFINITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

1. Urge the 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 NYS Education Department.
2. The district be required to notify the parents or guardians of a student identified as gifted or talented regardless of whether or not a district has a program of gifted and talented education to meet their needs.
3. To urge its units and councils to encourage their local school districts to comply with the NYS Education Department regulations.

### **MIGRANT CHILDREN – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)**

1. Encourage local and state educational agencies to develop and implement processes that improve migrant students' access to secondary school services in the following areas: instructional opportunities, credit accumulation and counseling and support services.

#### **RECESS FOR STUDENTS – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04)**

1. Urge the Board of Regents and the NYS Education Department to encourage every school district to offer at least twenty minutes a day of supervised, unstructured time (recess) for all elementary students in NYS. 2. Urge that recess not be eliminated from a child's school day due to academic failure and that teachers, parents, and administrators consider alternative behavior modification methods before denying any child recess activities.

#### **SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS – 2018 (R-'11, U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge the State Education Department and the Board of Regents to require certified school counselors in all public secondary schools.
2. Urge the State Education Department and the Board of Regents to establish a maximum number of students per school counselor in all public secondary schools and that this ratio not exceed 200 to 1.

#### **COMPULSORY EDUCATION – 2017 (U-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89)**

1. Support legislation that would amend the Education Law to change the compulsory education attendance age to eighteen.

#### **ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SETTINGS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK – 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)**

1. Support the educational concept of alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk.
2. Seek adequate fiscal resources from the State to support alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk that include the provision of counseling services, and further that the funding be unrestricted in nature so that school districts have the flexibility to support programs designed to meet the particular needs of their students at risk.

#### **THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02)**

1. The reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) be for a minimum of six years before it is necessary to reauthorize again.
2. Pursuant to the DSM 5 criteria, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder be specifically added to the list of official classifications in the IDEA.
3. A "Parent Member" be included in the official committee membership in the IDEA, and that the IDEA provide only the parent/guardian with the option to "waive" the requirement that the "Parent Member" be in attendance at the meeting.
4. A school psychologist be included in the official committee membership in the IDEA.

5. The IDEA provide full funding (Full funding is defined as 40% of the National Average of Per Pupil Expenditure in the 1975, 1997, and 2004 legislation) to the states and the school districts for programs and services, and that the full funding be designated in the federal education budget each year.
6. The U.S. Department of Education monitor the IDEA requirements for high school graduation, and that any student, regardless of receiving special education-related services, will be required to meet statewide assessments and credit requirements for graduation with a state-recognized diploma.

#### **SIGN LANGUAGE – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95, U-'88)**

1. The NYS PTA units and councils encourage their school districts to offer sign language as a second language option.

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Urge the State Education Department to change the regulations to read that all children with disabling conditions from age 11 and up are entitled to career and technical training for “real work” by using the NYS Education Department Career Development Occupational Study (CDOS) Standards.
2. The NYS PTA urge the New York State Education Department to monitor school districts carefully to ensure continued compliance.

#### **SECURING A NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ENDORSED DIPLOMA FOR ALL STUDENTS – 2015 (U-'08)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to continue to offer a variety of options of diplomas that meet the unique needs of all students and that will ensure opportunities for these students to graduate and earn or receive a valid diploma recognized by higher education and the work place.
2. Urge the NYS Education Department to offer an additional standards-based diploma for students who cannot successfully fulfill Regents requirements.

#### **REGENTS EXAMINATION SCHEDULES – 2015 (R-'08)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to maintain the current practice of administering Regents Examinations only during designated Regents Exam periods.

#### **GIFTED AND TALENTED IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMS – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to continue to enforce regulations as found in Part 117 of amendments to the Commissioner's regulations, requiring the identification of gifted and talented students and the notification of their parents.
2. Seek and support legislation that would mandate instructional educational programs and funding for these programs for students identified as gifted and talented.
3. Urge public schools to establish Committees for Gifted and Talented, consisting of school administrators, teachers of the gifted and talented, parents of gifted and talented students, and other appropriately trained school and community specialists, to assist in identification of and determination of appropriate educational programs and services for these children.

4. 4. Urge the Board of Regents and the NYS Education Department to require undergraduate teacher training so that prospective teachers recognize and understand the unique characteristics and needs of gifted and talented children.
5. 5. That in-service education in the instruction of gifted and talented children be urged for all teachers in the school districts in NYS and be enhanced by leadership, materials and methods of instruction by the NYS Education Department.

#### **GIFTED AND TALENTED COUNSELING – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge the Board of Regents and the NYS Education Department to require guidance counselors to provide direct and on-going services to address the special needs of children who have been identified as gifted and talented.

#### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT – 2015 (R-'08, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to continue to support staff development programs tailored to district needs.
2. Urge the State legislature to provide consistent and appropriate funding for staff development programs.

#### **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge local Boards of Education to establish in-school suspension programs that provide for continuity of instruction.

### **V. Environment**

#### **CELLULAR PHONE TOWERS – 2021 (U-'14, R-'07, R-'00)**

1. 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;
2. Support continued research into the long-term effects of radio frequency and microwave frequencies on humans, especially as they apply to children;
3. Seek to educate parents, local communities, and school officials as to the current debate over the placement of cell towers and antennas.

#### **INDOOR AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS – 2021 (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93)**

1. 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.

#### **PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES – 2021 (U-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Support protecting water recharge systems to maintain the natural filtering process to refresh underground aquifers;
2. Encourage and support 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;
3. Encourage education of children and youth regarding the need for conservation and water management.

#### **SOIL CONTAMINATION ON SCHOOL GROUNDS – 2021 (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Support such efforts as to determine what levels of soil contamination by toxic substances are acceptable on school grounds.
2. Support legislation to designate levels of safety for all ground and soil contaminates on school grounds.
3. Support legislation to designate levels of acceptable exposure to children on school playgrounds and athletic fields.
4. Encourage existing agencies, such as the NYS Dept. of Health, Dept. 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.
5. If soil testing demonstrates contaminant levels exceeding safe or acceptable levels for human health or the environment, the affected areas should immediately be closed to 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.

#### **MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IN THE SCHOOL SETTING – 2020**

1. Seek and support that regulations are established to set a healthy maximum room temperature in school buildings.
2. Urge its units, councils, and regions to educate families, teachers, other school personnel, and community members regarding the signs and symptoms of all heat-related illnesses.

#### **IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06, R-'99, U-'92)**

1. 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.

2. Urge the NYS Education Department 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.
3. 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.
4. Encourage the NYS Education Department to accept collegiate level Environmental Science Courses as fulfilling both general and content area requirements for science teacher certification.

### **REDUCING AND PHASING OUT THE USE OF POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) PLASTIC IN NEW YORK SCHOOLS – 2019 (R-'12)**

1. Seek and support legislation that would reduce and phase out the use of PVC products at all New York State school facilities.
2. Urge school districts and the New York State Education Department to develop green procurement policies to reduce and phase out the use and purchase of PVC building materials and office and education supplies in school facilities where safer cost-effective alternatives are available.
3. NYS PTA and its constituent units educate parents and community members about the potential health effects of PVC and work to eliminate PVC products at all PTA-sponsored events.

### **AIR QUALITY STANDARDS IN INDOOR ICE ARENAS – 2019 (R-'12)**

1. Urge the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) to establish air quality standards of less than 20 parts per million (ppm) for carbon monoxide (CO) within enclosed ice arenas.
2. Urge the NYS DOH to establish air quality standards of less than 0.3 ppm of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) within enclosed ice arenas.
3. Urge the NYS DOH to establish air quality standards of less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter for coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and less than 12 micrograms per cubic meter for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) within enclosed ice arenas.
4. Support legislation for low emission or electric resurfacers, including proper maintenance thereof, within enclosed ice arenas.
5. Seek and support legislation that requires that adequate ventilation and the installation of air quality measuring devices in all enclosed ice arenas.
6. Seek and support regulations requiring proper training of operators and staff in maintenance and use of equipment and in emergency procedures.
7. Urge its units, councils and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of elevated levels of CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter in enclosed ice arenas.

### **PAPER RECYCLING AND RECYCLED PAPER USE – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

1. Urge units and councils to reduce paper waste and encourage schools to reduce paper waste.
2. Encourage PTAs at local, region, state and national levels to use recycled paper in their PTA work.
3. Urge National PTA to promote the use of recycled paper and paper recycling in schools.



## **SEWAGE WASTE PROBLEMS – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Support state legislation for environmental air quality and health risk studies of proposed and existing sewage plants.
2. Urge authorities to establish regulations and enforce existing statutes and regulations in regard to indiscriminate use of sanitary sewage systems for the disposal of unlawful material (toxic waste) by industrial, commercial, and residential users.

## **TOXIC ART SUPPLIES – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Urge school districts to evaluate the art products used in their schools and to seek removal of such products as may be necessary for the health and safety of students.
2. Work to educate parents and community members about how to identify unsafe or toxic art supplies.

## **HAZARDS FROM LAND, WATER, AIR, NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION – 2018 (R-'10, U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. Support federal and state programs such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the “Super Fund” and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
2. The NYS 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.

## **USE OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS – 2017 (U-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)**

1. Seek and support legislation that would ban or phase out the use of polystyrene products at all state and public school facilities until infrastructure is in place to recycle these products in an environmentally safe manner.
2. Urge the state to encourage local municipalities to issue their own ban or phase out plan of polystyrene products until infrastructure is in place to recycle these products in an environmentally safe manner.
3. NYS PTA and its constituent units work to eliminate or phase out the use of polystyrene products at all PTA-sponsored events until recycling infrastructure is available to recycle these products in an environmentally safe manner.
4. Encourage legislation that would further the recycling capabilities of all polystyrene products in an environmentally safe manner throughout the entire state of New York.

## **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT – 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)**

1. 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.

## **MERCURY REDUCTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02)**

1. Support legislation to reduce mercury discharge into the environment and to regulate industry contributing to mercury pollution by emissions or in products.
2. 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.
3. NYS PTA units and councils encourage their local school boards to eliminate or reduce the use of mercury products in the schools.

#### **LABELING OF MILK PRODUCTS – 2016 (U-'09, R-'02, U-'01, R-'94)**

1. Urge the NYS Legislators to mandate that all milk coming from cows fed, injected with, or that have been administered hormones be labeled.

#### **EDUCATION ON THE SAFE USE OF DEET– 2016**

1. Urge units and councils to educate parents, teachers, and the community on the correct usage and potential dangers of incorrect usage of products containing DEET using the most current available positions of reliable medical experts, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.

#### **GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) AND GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) FOODS – 2016**

1. Support legislation and regulations that require mandatory labeling, with clear and conspicuous words, of GMO and GE foods.
2. Support legislation and regulations that restrict pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE foods, from use in food and beverages provided by school meal programs and vending services.
3. Until such legislation and regulations are in effect, all school districts be encouraged to avoid the use of foods and beverages that contain pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE foods, provided by the school meal programs and vending services.
4. Encourage units and councils to educate parents and community members on the health and environmental effects of pesticide tolerant GMOs, and GE food, products.

#### **BIO-SOLIDS IN NEW YORK STATE – 2015**

1. Seek and support legislation banning human bio-solids from being used in public areas that are near schools, playgrounds or other areas frequented by youth until such time that independent studies on the environmental impact can be performed and bio-solids are determined to be safe.
2. Urge Congress, the NYS Legislature, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to regulate and control how human bio-solids are to be used.

## **VI. Financial Support for Public Education**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL LOTTERY AID TO EDUCATION – 2021 (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Urge and support 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.

### **FUNDING FOR EDUCATION MANDATES – 2020 (R-'13, U-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

1. Encourage funding by the State Legislature for new educational and existing mandates.

### **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AID – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Support full, equitable and adequate funding of all public schools, and development of an equitable distribution of state funds to provide equal and equitable educational opportunities for all public school students.
2. Continue to urge the legislature and the governor to increase financial support of public education to ensure beyond a sound basic education for all children.

### **MANDATED DEADLINE FOR STATE BUDGET – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97)**

1. PTA units and councils educate their community on the effects of a late state budget on its school district.
2. PTA units and councils urge the legislature to meet its constitutional duty by passing the budget on time.

### **LEVELING UP LOW WEALTH DISTRICTS – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Continue to support state aid formulas that provide for more equitable educational opportunity by leveling up the low wealth districts.

### **ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REFORM STATE AID TO EDUCATION FORMULAS – 2017 (U-'10, R-'03)**

1. 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.

### **REFORM OF STATE AID TO EDUCATION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Support and encourage legislation that would set a minimum level of state aid of at least 50% of the total educational costs for the state.

2. Support and encourage legislation to create built-in minimum levels of funding for state-prescribed staffing ratios and other mandates.

### **FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS – 2015 (R-'08, U-'01)**

1. Urge and support legislation to change the method of funding charter schools to eliminate the adverse impact on public school districts.
2. That the NYS PTA support legislation that will hold charter schools to the same financial accountability as all public schools.

## **VII. Health and Nutrition**

### **HERBAL CIGARETTES – 2021 (U-'14, U-'07, U-'00)**

1. Encourage local units and councils to educate parents and children, youth, parents, and families about the potential dangers of herbal cigarettes, including the Synthetic Cannabinoid Spice;
2. Urge the State Education Department to update school health curricula to include information on the dangers of smoking herbal cigarettes.

### **REASONABLE ACCESS TO FOOD DURING SCHOOL – 2021 (R-'14, U-'07, R-'00, R-'93)**

1. Urge 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.

### **FOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE – 2020 (U-'13)**

1. 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.
2. 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
3. Seek and support legislation requiring public disclosure on the amount, type and purpose of antibiotic use during food animal and farmed seafood production.
4. Support initiatives that would encourage local school districts to purchase meat and poultry products sourced from animals receiving antibiotics only for treatment of disease.
5. 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.

6. Forward to National PTA for consideration at their convention.

### **TRAINING OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN THE CARE OF A CHOKING VICTIM – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06)**

1. Support 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 lunch room, and wherever food is consumed.
2. Advocate for funding to be provided to school districts for the training of school employees in the care of the choking victim.

### **INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS – 2020 (U-'13, U-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

1. Urge the 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.
2. 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.

### **HEALTHY CHOICES – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05)**

1. Raise awareness of and educate children and youth, parents, school personnel, and the community about healthy choices.
2. Encourage units and councils to advocate for healthy choices in the home, school and community;
3. Urge parents to participate in school wellness committees and work to establish policies regarding healthy choices.
4. Encourage decision makers, including legislators, to implement, support and fund programs and activities that foster healthy choices.

### **ELIMINATION OF TRANS FATS FROM SCHOOL FOODS – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05)**

1. NYS PTA is concerned about obesity and other diet-related diseases and their effects upon children and youth and supports the elimination of non-naturally occurring trans fats from school foods.
2. NYS PTA actively work to reduce non-naturally occurring trans fats from school meals, à la cart vending choices, foods available for sale at after-school events and other events, and foods used in fundraising.
3. Encourage units and councils to work actively to educate school administrators, faculty, food service providers, parents, and children about healthy food choices.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE INSURANCE PARITY – 2019 (U-'12, U-'05)**

1. Urge PTA units and councils to work to educate parents and the school community about parity issues and available mental health and substance use services and programs.

### **AWARENESS OF MEDICATION MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98)**

1. Urge units and councils to encourage school districts to ensure implementation of New York State regulations and guidelines as well as school policies and procedures regarding administration and management of prescription medication.
2. Urge units and councils to provide programs and information to raise awareness through education of adults in a parental role regarding access to medications.
3. Support annual in-service programs for faculty and staff that include awareness of symptoms of identified medical conditions for students under their supervision.

### **INGREDIENT LABELING – 2019 (R-'12, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Support legislation that would require full disclosure, in clear language, of all ingredients and additives, (including chemical additives) on food, drug, water, and cosmetic labels.
2. Encourage its units and councils to educate its members as to the importance of reading labels and understanding the possible significance of the effects of the listed ingredients on the human body in order to protect the nutrition and health of children.

### **TO REQUIRE COMMITTEES ON SCHOOL HEALTH AS A MEANS OF EFFECTIVELY USING SCHOOL TIME – 2018 (U-'11, R-'04, R-'97)**

1. Urge the Board of Regents and the State Education Department to require every school district to establish a district wide comprehensive school health and wellness advisory committee which would include health and education professionals, parents, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

### **HEAD INJURIES – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97)**

1. Seek and support legislation establishing a state tracking system for head injuries in all children and students and a record that would follow each child and student from year to year.
2. Urge local school districts and community athletic organizations to include the addition of head injuries on health summaries and yearly physical forms.
3. Local units and councils educate their communities on the dangers of head injuries.

### **INERT INGREDIENT LISTING ON PESTICIDE PRODUCTS – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97)**

1. Urge and support legislation which would require pesticide manufacturers and formulators to disclose by product labeling the total composition of pesticide products including each inert ingredient in the formulation.

### **CPR/AED AND FIRST AID – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, U-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Encourage the NYS Education Department to require, and encourage funding for, all schools to provide the opportunity for all school personnel to receive annual training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/automated external defibrillation (AED) and first aid.

#### **RAPID WEIGHT LOSS/GAIN DIETS – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Encourage school districts to include as part of nutrition education the possible health hazards of rapid weight loss diets.
2. That coaches not encourage rapid weight loss or gain for participation in sports programs.

#### **HEALTHY SCHOOL FOODS – 2018 (U-'11, R-'04)**

1. Support initiatives that would encourage local school districts to provide optional plant-based vegetarian and vegan school entrees and nutrition education materials and instruction; eliminate high calorie, high fat, low nutrition desserts from the menu; eliminate a la carte and vending items that are low nutrient, high calorie, high fat or high sodium and replace them with high nutrient and generally low calorie items; and support Farm to School programs, including organic foods where possible.
2. Encourage its units/councils to educate parents and school district staff about healthy eating patterns, including plant-based entrees.
3. Urge its units/councils to participate in the decision making about implementing, within their own schools and school districts, healthy choices, such as plant-based vegetarian or vegan, in school lunch programs.

#### **FOOD INSPECTION AND REGULATION – 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. 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.

#### **SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS – 2017 (U-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. 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.
2. Urge Congress to reauthorize child nutrition programs and SNAP.
3. Urge school districts and schools to operate school breakfast/lunch programs where there is a demonstrated need.

#### **PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS – 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. 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.

#### **SCHOOL NURSES – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Encourage its units and councils to assess with the staff and school boards of their districts the risks of having inadequate health care for students.
2. Urge the State Education Department to mandate a full-time registered nurse in every school building.

#### **ATHLETIC TRAINERS – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94, U-'87)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to require each school district to have a NYS certified athletic trainer available during practices and home games of secondary school sports.

### **VIII. Juvenile Protection**

#### **PROTECTION OF AND SUPPORT FOR TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING STUDENTS - 2021**

1. Encourage 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;
2. Urge 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;
3. Support 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.

#### **SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND YOUTH – 2021 (R- '14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, U-'86)**

1. Encourage 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
2. Strongly support collaborative efforts with non-school agencies to provide access to programs and services.



## **DIGITAL (INTERNET) SAFETY – 2020 (U-'13, U-'06)**

1. Inform and educate parents and families, students, educators, school district staff and communities on the dangers associated with use of digital technology and communication.
2. Heighten parents' and families' technologic awareness and skills and encourage the use of internet safety strategies to ensure the safety of children and youth, and to encourage responsible and ethical use of digital technology and communication resources.
3. Work with collaborating partners and others to advocate for the protection of children and youth in a digital world.
4. Work to ensure that appropriate laws, policies and regulations are in place to protect children and youth when using digital technology and communications.

## **JUVENILE OFFENDERS - PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND FOLLOW-UP – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06, R-'99)**

1. Seek and support legislation to increase funding for prevention and intervention programs for high-risk youth, (e.g. mentoring programs, after-school activities, substance use counseling, etc.), as well as the implementation of restorative justice and practices.
2. 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
3. Seek and support legislation to create aftercare programs for juvenile offenders once they return to their neighborhoods and communities.

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION – 2020 (U-'13, U-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

1. Support legislation that provides funding for suicide prevention and intervention programs for students in grades K-12.
2. School districts be encouraged to provide in-service training on the problem of teenage suicide for teachers and support staff.
3. Encourage its units and councils to offer programs to educate parents and families about youth suicide.
4. Support the development of services for survivors of suicide attempt(s) and for families who have lost someone to suicide.

## **TRANSFERRING OF RECORDS – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to inform school personnel across the state of the concern for the lack of expeditious transfer of school records; and strongly encourage the NYS Education Department to develop appropriate policies and guidelines that insure the timely transfer of records.
2. Encourage its units and councils to alert and educate parents and members as to this proposed policy and its compliance within their own districts.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, R-'99, R-'92)**

1. Support legislation for public and private agencies within communities to establish or maintain temporary, alternate housing and shelters for victims of domestic violence.

2. 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.
3. Continue to promote and support legislation that would ensure sufficient funding for services to victims of domestic violence in NYS.

#### **SAFEGUARDING EXPLOITED AND MISSING CHILDREN – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge school districts to develop procedures for the registration of new students that would include a special check on individual students whose records are missing, incomplete or suspicious to verify their validity.
2. Seek and support legislation that will toughen the laws and enforce more stringent punishment for perpetrators of serious and repeated sexual abuse crimes and murders of children.

#### **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN PERSONAL SAFETY – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

1. Encourage each unit and council to promote educational programs (for parents, families, children and youth) based on currently mandated NYS Education Department Personal Health and Fitness, and Safe and Healthy Environment Standards with emphasis upon personal safety techniques.

#### **MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN – 2018 (U-'11, U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Inform its members of the provisions of legislation regarding missing and exploited children, such as the Bringing Missing Children Home Act, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Kevin and Avonte's Law, and Amber Alerts.

#### **FINGERPRINTING CHILDREN – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. In areas where fingerprinting programs are to be implemented, urge the local units and councils to adopt the following guidelines: (1) Seek advice and cooperation from police departments so that fingerprints are taken properly. (2) Program should be arranged for other than school hours (evenings or Saturday) so that there is no possibility of fingerprinting a child without a parent's or guardian's permission. (3) A parent or guardian must accompany the child to the fingerprinting program. (4) All sets of fingerprints should be retained by the parent or guardian, thus avoiding conflicts over lost fingerprints or any question of improper use of fingerprints. (5) The cost of the program, if possible, should be defrayed by nominal fees. (6) Parent or guardian should be advised of how best to retain fingerprint records.

#### **LIMITING CHILD LABOR – 2018 (R-'11, U-'04, R-'97, U-'90)**

1. Urge councils and high school units to inform parents of the existing child labor laws and the effects of inappropriate work experience on the education, social development, safety and health of our children.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS – 2017 (U-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89)**

1. Urge school districts to 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.
2. Urge school districts' boards of education to have specific policies that define what appropriate background checks should be.

**HAZING – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge that schools educate their students and that PTAs educate their members as to the possible dangers that may occur in hazing.

**TREATMENT OF PERSONS IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (PINS) – 2015 (U-'08, R-'01, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge local communities to establish individual and family counseling services, crisis mediation centers – where conflicts may be worked out to maintain family stability and programs for the identification and treatment of youth at risk for adjudication as Persons in Need of Supervision.
2. Seek to have services and resources delivered to youth adjudicated as Persons in Need of Supervision in such a way as to keep the family together whenever possible. 3. Oppose the placement of youth adjudicated as Persons In Need Of Supervision in large correctional institutions or in facilities far from their homes.

**DOMESTIC AND/OR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE/SEXUAL HARASSMENT – 2015 (U-'08, R-'01, R-'94)**

1. Support implementation of family life curricula in every school.
2. Support inclusion of Domestic and/or Intimate Partner Violence/Sexual Harassment education as part of a comprehensive health education curriculum including family life education.
3. Urge local PTA units to bring these issues to the attention of PTA members and youth in their communities, and encourage parent participation in prevention and awareness of sexual harassment, and domestic and/or intimate partner violence.
4. Focus on prevention of domestic and/or intimate partner violence through education and publications.
5. Urge school districts to adopt a formal policy on dating violence.

**TO PROMOTE NON-VIOLENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON TELEVISION – 2015 (U-'08, R-'01, R-'94)**

1. Urge the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to review the incidence of violence in relation to the incidence of non-violent conflict resolution whenever a media outlet seeks a license renewal.

2. Urge the FCC to demand proof that the ratio of violence to non-violent conflict resolution presented by a media outlet be in the public interest.
3. In cases where the ratio given is not deemed to be in the public interest by the FCC, the FCC to refuse renewal of that license.

**PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRIVACY – 2015 (R-'08, R-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to investigate and report currently existing school policies regarding the body search of students.
2. Units and councils encourage their local school districts to adopt student search policies expressly forbidding strip searches.

**IX. Libraries, Media, Technology**

**CHALLENGES TO TEXTBOOK AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL REVIEW – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, R-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

1. Encourage its units/councils to work with their respective school districts to implement the procedures for selection of textbooks and educational materials
2. 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.

**TV AND INTERNET CONTROL DEVICES – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, U-'98, R-'91, R-'84)**

1. Urge PTA units to educate their members as to the availability of parent control devices for both TV and the Internet.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION (FCC) - EDUCATION REGARDING RADIO BROADCASTING – 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96)**

1. Encourage the radio broadcast industry to comply with the letter and spirit of the FCC “safe harbor” provisions for children.
2. Encourage the radio broadcast industry, and particularly those stations that appeal to children, to broadcast language and material that is suitable for children.
3. 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.

**UP-TO-DATE AND UNBIASED EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL – 2016 (R-'09)**

1. Support ongoing challenges to the decisions of cases that limit the content of school books.
2. Communicate with school textbook publishers to make them aware of the continuing need for textbooks that offer an overview of opinion and factual information.

3. Encourage school boards and school board associations to unite in their determination to purchase educational materials which contain up-to-date information and present facts in an unbiased manner.
4. Every NYS school district ensures that all instructional materials and textbooks to be used in schools are available in useable alternative formats for all students (Chapter 377 Education Law 2001).

#### **TV/VIDEO VIEWING IN SCHOOLS – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'95)**

1. Encourage the Board of Regents to adopt a regulation that would require every school district to have a policy for the use of movies, videos (DVD, Blu-Ray, etc.), television and the Internet in all classrooms.
2. This policy be formulated with parental involvement.

### **X. Parent and Family Life**

#### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POVERTY – 2021 (U-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Cooperate with agencies and organizations which advocate for children and youth in poverty;
2. Support local, state, and federal legislation to alleviate 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.

#### **CHILD CARE SERVICES – 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, R-'82)**

1. 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
2. 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 to order to reduce turnover and improve quality of care.
3. 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.

### **XI. Pre-School and Early Childhood Education**

#### **STRENGTHENING THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, R-'85)**

1. 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.
2. Encourage the New York State Education Department to disseminate information by which school districts with full day kindergartens may evaluate their program.
3. Encourage the New York State

Education Department to engage in research to determine the effectiveness of full day kindergarten programs. 4. Advocate for full funding for full day kindergarten programs, staffing and facilities.

#### **BAN OF STANDARDIZED TESTING OF YOUNG CHILDREN – 2019 (U-'12, R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)**

1. Urge local school districts to stop the mass use of standardized tests from pre-school through second grade (with the exception of mandated bilingual and certain special education assessments).
2. Urge local school districts to develop and replace standardized tests below the third grade with alternative assessment methods that go by various names (authentic, appropriate, performance-based and direct) and will provide useful data and genuine accountability.
3. Urge that the State Education Department, State Board of Regents, State Legislature, and local school districts NOT call for new or additional standardized tests below the third grade and NOT rely on existing standardized tests below the third grade as indicators of educational progress.
4. Urge councils and local units to provide information to parents about developmentally appropriate alternative means of assessment.

### **XII. PTA Organizational Decisions**

#### **FUNDRAISING POSITION – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98)**

1. Seek to prevent the exploitation of children through PTA fundraising.
2. Children and youth should never sell door-to-door for PTA.
3. Children and youth should never be offered prize incentives for fundraising.
4. Educate units and councils about the dangers involved in fundraising practices which utilize children in the generation of sales and revenue.
5. All PTAs re-examine their fundraising practices as to whether those activities promote PTA's objects and purposes.

#### **VOLUNTEERISM – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Support an amendment to the Internal Revenue Code to allow volunteers the same standard of deduction for their mileage rate as that used by business people in computing their expense deduction.

### **XIII. Religious Expression in Public Schools**

#### **SCHOOL PRAYER AMENDMENT – 2018 (U-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Oppose a constitutional amendment that mandates organized prayer in public schools.

## **XIV. Safety**

### **DISCHARGING OF FIRE ARMS WITHIN SCHOOL AREAS – 2021 (R-'14, R-'07, R-'00, R-'93, R-'86)**

1. Seek and support 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;
2. Urge local cities, towns and villages to enact their own zoning ordinances which will not allow the discharge of firearms within one-half mile of school property.

### **REVISING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHILD SAFETY ZONE POINT SYSTEM – 2020 (U-'13)**

1. Urge the NYS 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.
2. Urge its units and councils to educate schools, parents, families, and children on the dangers of crossing multilane highways.

### **CHARTER BUS SAFETY – 2020 (U-'13, R-'06, U-'99, R-'92)**

1. 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.
2. Seek and support legislation to increase civil penalties against bus companies for non-compliance with intra- and inter-state motor carrier laws.
3. Seek and support legislation that requires seat belts on charter buses.
4. 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.
5. Seek and support legislation that would require 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.
6. 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.

### **FIREARMS ACCIDENT PREVENTION LAW – 2020 (R-'13, U-'06, R-'99, U-'92)**

1. Support legislation making parents and/or owners responsible for negligently stored firearms and ammunition.
2. 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.

### **CHILD SAFETY SEATING – 2020 (R-'13, R-'99, R-'92)**

1. Urge the appropriate agencies / organizations to provide assistance in obtaining federally approved child safety seats for families who are unable to afford them.
2. Encourage enforcement of all existing statutes and regulations on the use of child safety seats.

### **BICYCLE HELMET LAW – 2020 (R-'13, R-'06, U-'99, R-'92, U-'89)**

1. Seek and support legislation that would require all persons who operate or are passengers on bicycles to wear bicycle helmets, and that existing law for infants under one year of age remain the same.

### **IDENTIFYING UNSAFE SCHOOL CROSSINGS ON STATE OWNED ROADS – 2019 (R-'12, R-'05, R-'98)**

1. Support the passage of legislation which would enable the Department of Transportation to expend funds on identified risk areas and for the purpose of erecting, maintaining and upkeep of traffic signals on state, county and local roads.

### **SEAT BELT USAGE ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2018 (U-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Encourage its units and councils to support the use of seat belts on all school buses.
2. Seek and support federal legislation to require seat belts on school buses.

### **SAFETY ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2018 (U-'11, U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Urge school districts to purchase and/or contract for school buses with optional safety equipment, such as video cameras, two-way radios, external strobe lights, and Child Safety Alarm Systems.

### **TRAFFIC LIGHT INSTALLATION AT SCHOOLS WHICH ARE LOCATED ON STATE OWNED ROADS – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, U-'97, R-'90)**

1. Support the passage of legislation that would enable the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to expend funds for the installation and maintenance of traffic lights at schools which are located on state owned roads.

### **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER 911 – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Urge its units, councils and districts to disseminate information to its members available from local police authorities regarding the emergency telephone number 911, both its proper use and precautions about misuse.

### **YOUTH CAMP SAFETY – 2018 (R-'11, R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

1. Support the passage of a federal youth camp safety act.



**CHANGE IN THE VEHICLE TRAFFIC LAW PERTAINING TO STOPPED SCHOOL BUSES – 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96)**

1. Support programs to raise the awareness of dangerous traffic situations at school bus stops.
2. Seek and support legislation to prevent a vehicle from making turns toward 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.
3. 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.

**MANDATED FIRE/LOCKDOWN/LOCKOUT DRILLS – 2017 (U-'10, R-'03, U-'96, R-'89)**

1. Urge the NYS Education Department to consider amending the requirement of mandated fire drills so that at least one drill occurs annually during non-classroom situations, and before/after school instructions for all building occupants.

**MONITORS ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

1. 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.
2. 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.

**SCHOOL BUS STOP VULNERABILITY – 2016 (U-'09, U-'02, U-'01, R-'94)**

1. Encourage PTA units and councils to mount a campaign to raise awareness of student vulnerability at school bus stops.
2. Continue to educate parents and students in school bus safety and make parents aware that they are responsible for monitoring and protecting their children until the school bus arrives at the stop and the red lights begin to flash.

**PENALTIES FOR PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. Seek stronger enforcement of the existing law that requires all vehicles to stop and not pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing.

**ADULT SUPERVISION – 2016 (R-'09, R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)**

1. PTA units and councils urge their local school boards to provide adequate adult supervision of children during lunch and recess and that a minimum of one adult be assigned to each area where such activities are taking place.

## **HORSEBACK RIDING SAFETY – 2016 (R-'09, U-'02, R-'98, R-'91)**

1. Support stronger legislation to enact a riding safety code for operators of horseback riding facilities which would include, but not be limited to, the use of protective helmets and safety instruction to reduce the chance of injury.

## **SCOOTER, SKATEBOARD AND IN-LINE SKATING PROTECTIVE GEAR – 2015 (U-'08, U-'01, R-'95, U-'90)**

1. Encourage each unit and council to promote educational programs concerning the need for skateboard and in-line skating protective gear (which includes a helmet, elbow pads, knee pads and wrist guards).
2. Encourage each unit and council to urge physicians, manufacturers and sales personnel to educate and encourage parents, guardians and children in the use of scooter, skateboard and in-line skating protective gear.
3. Encourage its units and councils to advocate for regulations within their communities to control the use of scooter, skateboard and in-line skates on public streets and in areas of busy pedestrian activity and to advocate for specially designed skateboard and in-line skating areas to serve as an alternative to using the street.

## **GUN POSSESSION BY MINORS – 2015 (R-'08, U-'01, R-'94, U-'87)**

1. Urge its units and councils to promote educational programs for increased awareness of current gun possession laws, including those precluding possession of air/spring guns by youth under age sixteen, and emphasizing the effects of misuse of guns.

## **XV. NYS PTA Position Papers**

- [Use of Student Assessment and Its Impact on High Stakes Educational Decisions \(NEW\)](#)
- [Guidelines for Selections of Textbooks and Other Educational Materials \(NEW\)](#)
- [Children and Youth in Poverty: The Public School Responsibility \(NEW\)](#)
- [Education of Students with Disabilities in the \(LRE\) Least Restrictive Environment \(NEW\)](#)
- [Fundraising and the PTA \(NEW\)](#)
- [Integrating the Arts into Education \(NEW\)](#)
- [Early Childhood Education \(NEW\)](#)

- [Opiate/Opioid Prevention, Intervention and Treatment](#)
- [Prescription and Over-The-Counter Drug Use](#)
- [Family Engagement Training and Evaluation for Teachers and Administrators](#)
- [NYS PTA on Graduation Changes](#)
- [Affirming LGBTQ Youth and Families](#)
- [Assessment, Testing and Learning](#)
- [Educating the Whole Child](#)
- [Juvenile Justice in New York State](#)
- [Financial Literacy](#)
- [Partners for Healthy Lifestyles](#)
- [School District Requests for Financial Assistance](#)
- [NYS PTA and Charter Schools](#)
- [Guidelines for Selection of Textbooks and Educational Materials](#)