



2024

RESOLUTIONS

PACKET



2024 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

Retention # 1

3020A HEARINGS — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., supports modification to Education Law 3020-a to expedite the resolution of charges while preserving the rights of the teacher or administrator.

Statement: This resolution should be retained as current proceedings can take up to 180 days (equaling a full school year). While due process must be followed, there should be a more reasonable timeline for resolution.

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

Update #1

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) encourages **local school boards** ~~its local units~~ to ~~sponsor campaigns within their school districts to have money~~ allocated funds in school budgets to pay ~~the expenses incurred~~ for hiring and training school bus monitors, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA **seeks** ~~continue~~ **legislation** ~~to encourage the State Legislature~~ **that identifies** ~~to consider~~ **school** bus monitors **as** an integral **and aidable** part of the transportation of ~~transporting~~ children in **grades K-6** to and from school. ~~and, therefore, an "aidable" transportation cost~~

Statement: The rationale for this update is that this school aged population requires the supervision of a bus monitor. NYS PTA urges the state legislature to recognize school bus monitors as an integral part of school transportation departments with responsibility for the safety of transporting our children and youth to and from school. The order of the resolved statements has been swapped for a clearer delineation of funding for school programs.

Update #2

COMPREHENSIVE K-12 DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION RESISTANCE EDUCATION — 2017 (U-'10, U-'02);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA), ~~urges urge~~ the New York State Education Department ~~SED and the Legislature~~ to mandate **evidence-based, age- and developmentally-appropriate** ~~and fund~~ comprehensive K-12 drug, alcohol, and other substance ~~abuse~~ prevention education, and be it further

Resolved **that NYS PTA urges the NYS Legislature to annually fund evidence-based, age- and developmentally-appropriate, comprehensive K-12 drug, alcohol, and other substance use prevention education, and be it further**

Resolved that ~~the NYSew York State~~ PTA urges school districts to form substance ~~abuse~~ education coalitions, **inviting representatives from law enforcement, media, community partners, parents/guardians, families, administrators and school staff, students, and health care professionals** to develop, ~~and implement, and evaluate for effectiveness~~ ~~oversee~~ prevention **education** programs in their schools. ~~These coalitions should be encouraged to include all interested parties such as law enforcement, media, community, parents, teachers, administrators, students and health care professionals.~~

~~**Resolved** That all substance abuse prevention programs be evaluated regularly to measure effectiveness. Programs shall be modified based on evaluation and trends in student attitudes and behaviors~~

Statement: We are recommending an update to this resolution to itemize the asks and to encourage the development and implementation of evidence-based, age- and developmentally-appropriate educational programs and materials.

Update # 3

FUNDING AND EXPANSION OF ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SETTINGS FOR STUDENTS AT RISK — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (**NYS PTA**), supports ~~the educational concept of~~ **the allocation of adequate and unrestricted fiscal resources from the State to support** alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk, and be it further

Resolved that **NYS PTA** ~~the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.,~~ seeks ~~adequate fiscal resources from the State to support~~ **the expansion of** alternative high school programs and settings for students at risk ~~to that~~ include the provision of counseling services, ~~and further that the funding be unrestricted in nature so that school districts have~~

~~the flexibility and to support~~ programs designed to meet the particular needs of ~~their~~ students at risk.

Statement: This resolution is being updated for language and clarity. While there is guidance regarding the need for these programs, there is still a need for the provision of counseling services and unrestricted funding.

<https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/AltEd/>

Update #4

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., **(NYS PTA)** seeks and supports legislation that would ban the use, **production, and sale** of polystyrene products at all state and public school facilities, and be it further ~~that the New York State PTA urge the state to encourage local municipalities to issue their own ban on polystyrene products and be it further.~~

Resolved that ~~the New York State~~ **NYS** PTA and its constituent **associations** ~~units work to~~ eliminate polystyrene products at all PTA-sponsored events.

Statement: We support the full ban of polystyrene products, including the sale and production of these products. This resolution should be updated to encourage all PTAs to stop using polystyrene products at PTA-sponsored events. This is an action that we can take now, as an association, to help protect the environment for our children and youth.

Update #5

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

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. **(NYS PTA)** supports programs to raise ~~the~~ awareness of dangerous traffic situations at school bus stops, and be it further

Resolved ~~that the NYS PTA seek and support legislation to prevent a vehicle from making turns towards a school bus while it is discharging or receiving passengers to change the law to read "any" where is now reads "either" in section 1174(a) Vehicle and Traffic Law~~

Resolved that the NYS PTA seeks and supports 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.

Statement: This resolution is updated to reflect changes in law. The second resolved has been deleted with the passage of new bus stop arm laws. NYS PTA continues to advocate for safe traffic programs such as Operation Safe Stop, and has its own Traffic Safety program, Every Child Travels Safely.

Update #6

ALTERNATIVE ~~INTEGRATED~~ PEST MANAGEMENT (PEST CONTROL) — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urges school districts to promote alternative non-toxic pest management systems in order to protect children's health, safety and environment *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.*

Statement: This resolution should be updated. It is imperative that we continue to advocate for safe alternative pest management systems in our schools and environment for the health and safety of all children and youth.

Update #7

HAZARDS FROM LAND, WATER, AIR, NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., (NYS PTA) support federal and state programs seeks strict implementation and oversight of *such as* the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA "SuperFund"), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and be it further

Resolved *that the New York State 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.* that NYS PTA encourages its units and councils to educate the public about various environmental hazards and effective ways to reduce exposure, including the safe cleanup and disposal of hazardous materials.

Statement: This resolution has been updated to clarify current legislation and regulations addressing land, water, air, light, and noise pollution. The 2nd resolved has been updated to be inclusive of all environmental hazards.

Update #8

FOOD INSPECTION AND REGULATION — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., supports the enforcement of existing regulations and guidance and the proper inspection and regulation of food by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture ~~and other agencies, such as~~ the NYS Department of Health ~~(DOH)~~, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and other agencies, to prevent mislabeling, ~~and to~~ detect contamination, and maintain compliance throughout the process.

Statement: This resolution should be updated to include all mercury containing products. We need to continue to advocate for continued and stricter legislation to reduce mercury discharge into the environment. Changes in emissions and in the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) can and have been revised by each administration. Regulations need to be strengthened and evidence-based minimum standards established. We continue to encourage schools to eliminate or reduce their use of mercury products.

Update # 9

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA), opposes any cuts in the National School Lunch Program, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA ~~New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.~~, urges Congress to reauthorize school lunch and breakfast programs such as but not limited to ~~and~~ the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Summer Food Service Program, and be it further

Resolved that the NYS PTA ~~New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.~~, urges school districts ~~and schools~~ to initiate and operate school lunch and breakfast programs in every school and be made accessible to every student. ~~that do not yet have them, where there is a demonstrated need, to initiate them and operate them in accordance with the federal guidelines even though they may no longer be required by law.~~

Statement: This resolution is being recommended for an update. Although we have made a difference with universal school meals, under current regulations not all schools and children are eligible. There are schools that don't have either of these programs. NYS PTA continues to advocate for free healthy school meals for all of our children and youth.

Update #10

PROTECTING YOUTH IN CULTS — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc urges strict enforcement of all compulsory education, abuse, neglect, and health laws for ~~those~~ minor children being raised by within "cults".

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA support legislation that will enable the courts, upon sufficient evidence that radical changes in behavior have coincided with an individual's close association with a certain group, to grant parents conservatorship for a reasonable period of time over their child.~~

Statement: This resolution should be updated. The second resolve has been stricken because it involves a situation where a parent would be given conservatorship over an adult. Our advocacy efforts should be focused on children and youth being raised within cults. The intent of this resolution is to protect minor children. The laws that are listed in the first resolved are only applicable to youth receiving a public or equivalent education.

Update #11

FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION (FCC) ~~EDUCATION REGARDING RADIO~~ BROADCASTING REGULATIONS— 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urges ~~encourage~~ the ~~radio~~ broadcast industry to comply with the ~~letter and spirit of the~~ FCC "safe harbor" provisions for children.

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA he radio broadcast industry, and particularly those stations that appeal to children, to broadcast language and material that is suitable for children~~

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA 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~~

Statement: This resolution should be updated. We need to continue to advocate for and insist that the broadcast industry comply with "Safe Harbor" provisions for children established by the FCC. The last two resolved statements have been stricken due to the change in media consumption by children and youth today. The platforms used by youth today are not regulated by the FCC.

Update #12

CHILD CARE SERVICES — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89, R-'82);

Resolved that the **New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA)** *encourage* **urges** the state legislature to **increase child care subsidies and funding to increase accessibility to equitable quality child care services and provide accessible professional development and quality grants programs for child care providers**, and be it further resolved *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*

Resolved *that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.), 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, and be it further*

Resolved that the NYS PTA **supports enforcement of** *urge the state* **legislation** legislature to address **requiring** *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*

Statement: This resolution is being updated to reflect the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget which includes additional funding for child care subsidies, reflects increased minimum wage and cost of living adjustments, and for various other programmatic adjustments. NYS PTA must continue to advocate for quality, accessible, and equitable child care services for all parents and families. The first resolved statement has been stricken because PTA should support Office of Children and Family Services guidance regarding child-care providers. This is not in the purview of PTA to provide. The second and third resolved statements have been updated to use stronger and clearer language.

Update #13

PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, R-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. **encourages school districts to develop partnerships with community health providers to increase equitable access to** *strongly support* age-appropriate preventive health programs, **including but not limited to** *such as:* prenatal and well-child care, newborn screenings, immunizations, nutritional screenings, **oral health** *dental care*, vision, and hearing screenings, scoliosis and blood pressure screenings, lead poisoning and tuberculin skin tests, and voluntary screening for genetic diseases.

Statement: This resolution should be updated to advocate for equitable access to well-care and preventive medicine for all children. Providing access to such screenings and services

through school districts will improve health outcomes for children, youth, and their families.

RESCISSIONS

Rescission #1

SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN SUPERMARKETS — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. opposes any legislation permitting the sale of liquor and wine in supermarkets, convenience stores and drug stores.

Statement: The original intent of this resolution addressed peer-to-peer sale of alcohol prior to the drinking age being raised to 21. This resolution should be rescinded because laws and regulations have been passed that address the original concerns in the resolution. NYS PTA continues to encourage supermarkets, convenience stores, and drug stores to strictly enforce regulations regarding the sale of liquor and wine.

Rescission #2

FULL ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE, ACCURATE, AND AGE-APPROPRIATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER/QUESTIONING (LGBTQ)-AFFIRMING RESOURCES — (2017);

Resolved that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. supports legislation and regulations that require full access to comprehensive, accurate, and age-appropriate LGBTQ-affirming resources for all public school students, and be it further

Resolved that until such legislation and regulations are in effect, New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage local school districts to write policies that provide full access to comprehensive, accurate, and age-appropriate LGBTQ affirming resources in schools, such as books (fiction and nonfiction), periodicals, websites for local LGBTQ resources, and affirming support staff, and be it further

Resolved that New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage units and councils to educate parents, staff, and community members on available LGBTQ affirming resources for LGBTQ students.

Statement: Recommend Rescind. National PTA and NYS PTA have resolutions that include the above action items with more specific and updated language. In addition, NYSED has guidelines in the Culturally Responsive Education Framework regarding the above. The National PTA position (linked below) is based on NYS PTA advocacy work, resolutions, and positions.

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-PTA-Resolutions/protection-of-and-support-for-LGBTQ-individuals>

https://nyspta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/WHERE-WE-STAND-2024.FINAL_.pdf

Rescission #3

MANDATED FIRE DRILLS —2017 (R-'10, R-'03, U-'96, R-'89);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York State 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.

Statement: This resolution is being rescinded because state law and NYSED regulations have been adopted and include the language in this resolved statement.

<https://p12.nysed.gov/facplan/documents/FireDrillsClarificationsMemo11-17-20schoolleaders.pdf>

https://www.p12.nysed.gov/facplan/FireSafety/FireDrillFreq_120309.htm

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/807>

Rescission #4

COMPULSORY EDUCATION — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03, R-'96, R-'89);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support legislation that would amend the Education Law to change the compulsory education attendance age to seventeen

Statement: This resolution should be rescinded because the age of compulsory education is detailed extensively in state regulations, and also under strict local school district control. Minimums are set by state regulations, and then districts have some limited flexibility on compulsory education to meet the needs of their communities. At the initial adoption of this resolution in 1982, the dropout rate was 18%. Presently, less than 5% of students in NY State dropout of school at the end of the academic year in which they turn 16. NYS PTA should continue to advocate for the expansion of alternative education opportunities including but not limited to community schools, career and technical education programs, and alternative high schools.

Rescission #5

ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO REFORM STATE AID TO EDUCATION FORMULAS — 2017 (R-'10, R-'03);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage the NYS Legislature to establish a task force to study current and proposed school aid formulas and develop a funding solution that is adequate, equitable, predictable and understandable

Statement: This resolution should be rescinded. Foundation Aid has been fully funded by the NYS budget and as such, as a part of the 2024-25 SY state budget the Rockefeller Institute has been charged to work with NYSED to review and update future funding formulas. NYS PTA continues to be a voice for all children and families in these important conversations about funding for schools and education statewide. Depending on the recommendations of future Foundation Aid legislation, NYS PTA is prepared to advocate for necessary updates.

Rescission #6

BACKGROUND CHECKS OF SCHOOL EMPLOYEES — 2017 (R-'10, U-'03, R-'96, R-'89);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge school districts to do thorough background checks of school employees before employment and to request verification that background checks are performed on employees of companies under contract with the school district who may come in direct contact with the school districts children.

Statement: This resolution should be rescinded because NY State law now requires the Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability (OSPRA) to conduct a fingerprint supported criminal history background check for all applicants for certification and prospective school employees of school districts, charter schools, and BOCES. Background checks must also be performed for any contractor or guest who comes in direct contact with children. This procedure is outlined in Part 87 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Legislation (Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2001). NYS PTA encourages schools to adhere to the guidelines set out in this legislation.
