

Adopted Resolutions at 2009 NYS PTA Convention

Retention #1 - referred to committee, 2009*

Comprehensive K-12 Drug, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Resistance Education - 2002;

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge SED and the Legislature to mandate and fund comprehensive K-12 drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse resistance education.

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge school districts to form substance abuse education coalitions, to develop and oversee resistance 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 resistance programs be evaluated regularly to measure effectiveness. Programs shall be modified based on evaluation and trends in student attitudes and behaviors.

Retention #2 – adopted as presented

Sale of Tobacco to Minors – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge local units to seek the cooperation of their local law enforcement agencies in enforcing the law banning the sale of tobacco products to minors and those local ordinances pertaining to it.

Resolved that the New York State PTA 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.

Retention #3 – adopted as presented

Point of Sale Accessibility and Advertising of Tobacco Products – 2009 (R-'02, U-'00);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge and support legislation requiring that any establishment selling tobacco and/or any other tobacco products may not engage in point-of-sale advertising of these products where candy, sports trading cards, or toys are displayed for sale (such point-of-sale advertising to include all printed or graphic material bearing the brand name, logo, symbol, motto, selling message or anything identifiable with these products).

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge and support legislation that would prohibit audio and/or video formats (i.e. “static video display”) to be played at or shown at the point of sale.

**Retention #4 – adopted as presented
Student Participation – 2009 (R-’02, R-’95, R-’88);**

Resolved that the PTA units in secondary schools, PTA councils, and PTA regions be encouraged to have students on their boards.

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

**Retention #5 – adopted as presented
Parent Participation – 2009 (R-’02, R-’95, R-’88);**

Resolved that the State Education Department advise and inform PTAs of the existence of all mandated school councils.

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the SED and the state and local agencies and the school boards to use the PTA to serve on mandated school councils and other committees concerning children, wherever appropriate.

Resolved that New York State PTA and its regions make available parent representatives to serve wherever appropriate.

Resolved that PTA units and councils make themselves available to their school districts to serve on school councils, wherever appropriate.

**Retention #6 – referred to committee, 2009*
Guidance Counselor Case Load – 2002 (U-’01, R-’94, R-’87);**

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the State Education Department and the Board of Regents to establish a maximum number of students per guidance counselor in all public secondary schools and that this ratio not exceed 200 to 1.

**Retention #7 – adopted as presented
Labeling of Milk Products --- 2009 (R-’02, U-’01, R-’94);**

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the New York State Legislators to mandate that all milk coming from cows injected with hormones be labeled.

Retention #8 – adopted as presented

Ban on DEET with Concentration Over 30% --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the legislature to ban the use of DEET with concentrations over 30%.

Retention #9 – adopted as presented

Reform of State Aid to Education --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

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

Resolved that the New York State PTA support and encourage legislation to create built-in minimum levels of funding for state-prescribed staffing ratios and other mandates.

Retention #10 – adopted as presented

School Nurses --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

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

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge the State Education Department to mandate a full-time registered nurse in every school building.

Retention #11 – adopted as presented

Up-To-Date and Unbiased Educational Material --- 2009 (R-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support ongoing challenges to the decisions of cases that limit the content of school books.

Resolved that the New York State PTA communicate with school textbook publishers to make them aware of the continuing need for textbooks that offer an overview of opinion and factual information.

Resolved that the New York State PTA 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.

Resolved that every New York State school district ensure that all instruction materials and textbooks to be used in schools are available in useable alternative formats for all students (Chapter 377 Education Law 2001).

Retention #12 – adopted as presented
Volunteerism --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

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

Retention #13 – adopted as presented
Penalties for Passing a Stopped School Bus --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

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

Retention #14 – adopted as presented
Adult Supervision --- 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

Resolved that 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.

Update #1 – adopted as presented
Regional Commission to Study Part 200 Regulations --- 2009 (U-'02, R-'95, R-'88);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge the State Education Department regional offices supervisors to meet with parents from PTA/SEPTA and BOCES on a regular basis and share information through the state-funded parent centers.

Resolved that regional groups advise the regional offices of unmet needs within the region regarding the education of children with disabling conditions.

Resolved that regional groups assist the regional offices in developing and reporting data and evaluating the services provided to children with disabling conditions.

Update #2 – adopted as amended
The Reauthorization of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act– 2009 (U-'02)

Resolved that the Reauthorization of IDEA be for a minimum of six years before it is necessary to reauthorize again.

Resolved that pursuant to the DSM-IVR criteria, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) be specifically added to the list of official classifications in the IDEA.

- Resolved** that 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.
- Resolved** that a school psychologist be included in the official committee membership in the IDEA.
- Resolved** that 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.
- Resolved** that 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.

**Update #3 – adopted as presented
Sign Language – 2009 (U-'02, R-'95, U-'88);**

- Resolved** that the New York State PTA units and councils encourage their school districts to offer sign language as a second language option.

**Update #4 -- adopted as presented
Special Education – 2009 (U-'02, R-'95, R-'88);**

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., 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 SED Career Development Occupational Study (CDOS) Standards.
- Resolved** that the NYS PTA urge the State Education Department to monitor school districts carefully to ensure continued compliance.

**Update #5 – adopted as presented
Mercury Reduction in the Environment --- 2009 (U-'02);**

- Resolved** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support legislation to reduce mercury discharge into the environment and to regulate industry contributing to mercury pollution by emissions or in products.
- Resolved** that the NYS PTA encourage local school boards to eliminate or reduce the use of mercury products in the schools.

Update #6 – adopted as presented
Hazing --- 2009 (U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87);

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge that schools educate their students and that PTAs educate their members as to the possible dangers that may occur in hazings.

Update #7 – adopted as presented
Emancipation of Minors --- 2009 (U-'02, U-'98, R-'91, R-'84);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., seek and support the passage of legislation that would establish conformity among child protection statutes, give parents rightful authority over their 16 and 17 year-old children, and define the age of emancipation in a manner that would protect the rights of young people and their parents.

Resolved that said legislation should provide that a parent's financial obligation to support his or her child under the age of 21 shall cease when it is demonstrated that the child is financially independent, or that the child, against the will of the parents, voluntarily and without good cause, has absented himself or herself from the custody and control of the parent or other lawful authority. (See 413 of Family Court Act, Sub 3 of 32 or Domestic Relations Act).

Update #8 – adopted as presented
TV/Video Viewing in Schools -- 2009 (U-'02, R-'95);

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

Resolved that this policy be formulated with parental involvement.

Update #9 – adopted as presented
School Bus Stop Vulnerability -- 2009 (U-'02, U-'01, R-'94);

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., encourage PTA units and councils to mount a campaign to raise awareness of student vulnerability at school bus stops.

Resolved that the New York State PTA 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.

Resolved that the New York State PTA support legislation protecting the rights of children waiting at school bus stops.

**Update #10 – adopted as presented
Horseback Riding Safety --- 2009 (U-'02, R-'98, R-'91);**

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., 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 instructions to reduce the chance of injury.

**NEW – Adopted as amended
Detoxification of Minors — 2009**

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge that public and private detoxification facilities for minors be made available within close proximity to a minor's area of residency at or above the level of access available to adults.

Resolved that NYS PTA 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.

Resolved that the NYS PTA will urge its units, councils, and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of substance abuse and the treatment options available for minors.

***Explanatory Note:** Retentions #1 and #6 are marked as having been “Referred to Committee.” This means that, for various reasons, the delegates of Convention 2009 voted to return these resolutions to the resolutions committee for further consideration. At next year's convention, the resolutions will be re-submitted as retentions or updates for the delegates' vote. In the meantime, these resolutions remain part of the policy of NYS PTA and may continue to be used in advocacy efforts by PTA units and councils.