

DETOXIFICATION OF MINORS – 2009 – ADOPTED AS AMENDED

- WHEREAS** many highly addictive drugs have increased in potency, purity and availability, causing an addiction involving psychological, neurobiological, and social dimensions, and
- WHEREAS** drug addiction is a multifaceted issue that involves the minor, family, school, mental health, community, peers, criminal justice system and society at large, and
- WHEREAS** detoxification is a complex process that requires medical supervision, and
- WHEREAS** there is an inequity in the availability of public and private detoxification facilities for minors when compared to those available for adults, and
- WHEREAS** there are laws mandating compulsory public education but no laws mandating compulsory drug abuse treatment, and
- WHEREAS** legislation exists (effective 2010) that requires insurance companies to fund treatment of mental health/substance abuse issues on par with all medical and surgical benefits covered by the insurance plan; therefore be it
- 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, and be it further
- 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, and be it further
- 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.

Congratulations to Sachem PTA Council, Suffolk Region, for their successful advocacy through creating this important new resolution!