

To: All Unit/Council Presidents

Re: Resolutions for Convention 2018

Greetings! As your unit embarks on an exciting new PTA year, one of its first fall projects should be to review the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the upcoming 2018 NYS PTA Convention. The complete text of these resolutions will be found in this packet. Remember that all PTA members have the right to take part in their local PTA's discussion and vote on resolutions, even if they will not be attending Convention.

Resolutions articulate official NYS PTA positions that were adopted by vote of the delegates to past annual conventions. You can find these adopted positions in two official NYS PTA documents: *Where We Stand*, which contains the complete text of each existing resolution; and *Basic Policy*, which provides a broader overview of general NYS PTA positions. PTA units and councils draw on these positions to shape their support of proposed legislation, policies or regulations and their advocacy in other areas affecting the welfare of children and youth.

There is one new resolution being submitted for this convention and 27 existing resolutions have been reviewed by the NYS PTA Resolutions Committee, amended if necessary, and classified into the categories of retentions, updates or rescissions. *Retentions* are adopted resolutions that are up for renewal without any revision; delegates may therefore reaffirm or reject them in their current form, but may not amend them. *Updates* are adopted resolutions which are being revised to maintain their accuracy or relevance. Delegates will vote to reaffirm or reject each update as well, but may also amend *the revised wording* of the update. Finally, *rescissions* are resolutions that can be retired because their resolves have been enacted. Once rescinded, a resolution becomes part of NYS PTA's historical record.

To facilitate your resolutions debate, a brief statement following the text of each resolution explains the action (retention, update, rescission) proposed by the Resolutions Committee. Be sure to allow sufficient time at a general meeting for members to discuss each resolution before they vote on it. I recommend using the enclosed Resolutions Checklist to keep a record of your members' votes; this will help your convention delegates when they represent your members and vote on their behalf.

It's best for a PTA to give a vote of confidence to its delegates in case some unforeseen issue arises during convention debate. This vote of confidence will allow the delegates to continue to represent their PTA while making appropriate decisions in light of new information. Even if for some reason your unit cannot send a delegate to convention, the membership should still review and vote on these resolutions. All members need to be familiar with resolutions because they are the foundation of all PTA advocacy.

Resolutions debate is one of the high points of annual convention. When you come together with other delegates to voice your views and act on your principles, you will feel the power of volunteers to make a difference for children and schools. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I invite you to Saratoga Springs to join the action at the NYS PTA 122nd Annual Convention on November 9-11, 2018

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS CHECKLIST

<u>RETENTIONS</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Influence of Media on Tobacco Use – 2011 (U-'04)	_____	_____
2. Enforcement of Current Regulations of Children and Youth with Disabilities – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
3. Community Schools Program – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90)	_____	_____
4. Requirements for the Parent Member for the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, U-'90)	_____	_____
5. Recess for Students – 2011 (U-'04)	_____	_____
6. School Counselors in Secondary Schools – 2011 (U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87)	_____	_____
7. Sewage Waste Problems – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
8. Toxic Art Supplies – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
9. Mandated School Budget Votes – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97)	_____	_____
10. Leveling Up Low Wealth Districts – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
11. Head Injuries – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97)	_____	_____
12. Inert Ingredients – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97)	_____	_____
13. CPR/AED and First Aid – 2011 (R-'04, U-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
14. Rapid Weight Loss Diets – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
15. Fingerprinting Children – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
16. Limiting Child Labor – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, U-'90)	_____	_____
17. Traffic Light Installation at Schools Which are Located on State Owned Roads – 2011 (R-'04, U-'97, R-'90)	_____	_____
18. Emergency Telephone Number 911 – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
19. Youth Camp Safety – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
20. Hazards from Land, Water, Air, Noise, and Light Pollution – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)	_____	_____

<u>UPDATES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Healthy School Foods – 2011 (R-'04)	_____	_____
2. To Require Coordinating Councils on School Health as a Means of Effectively Using School Time – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97)	_____	_____
3. Missing Children – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
4. School Prayer Amendment – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
5. Seat Belt Usage on School Buses – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____
6. Safety Items on School Buses – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)	_____	_____

2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS CHECKLIST

RESCISSIONS

YES

NO

- 1. Multiple Day Test Administration for All Students with Extended Time and Two Regents on the Same Day – 2011 (R-'04)

NEW RESOLUTIONS

YES

NO

- 1. Raising the Minimum Sales Age of Tobacco and Other Nicotine Delivery Systems to 21

2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTIONS

RETENTION #1

INFLUENCE OF MEDIA ON TOBACCO USE – 2011 (U-'04);

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

STATEMENT: Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Surgeon General shows that observing the use of tobacco in movies and other forms of media greatly increases the likelihood that a child will begin to use tobacco and e-cigarettes. Children and youth today have access to a wide range of media that expose them to tobacco use.

RETENTION #2:

ENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT REGULATIONS FOR PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

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

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. oppose any changes in federal or state laws and/or regulations that would allow any increase in class size, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the Commissioner of Education to strongly enforce all the current regulations regarding the education of children and youth with disabilities.

STATEMENT: NYS PTA advocates for timely evaluation and placement of children and youth with disabilities. NYS PTA asks for enforcement of current regulations and opposes any changes that would delay timely evaluation and school/class placement. No child or youth should be at a disadvantage due to delayed evaluation. Placement should always be appropriate. In addition, class size should reflect accepted guidelines and best practices.

RETENTION #3:

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage development and support of the Community Schools Program in areas where needed and appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. promote continued allocation of the resources necessary for the continuance and expansion of the Community Schools Program.

STATEMENT: Community Schools continue to be an important program designed to help under-resourced schools address the physical health and emotional issues which can impede student learning. It emphasizes family engagement, community partnerships, and additional support for students and families.

2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

RETENTION #4:

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PARENT MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE) AND THE COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (CPSE) – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, U-'90);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support maintaining a parent member as a mandated member of the CSE and CPSE committees, and be it further

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

STATEMENT: While the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has a brochure for parent member training and the training is available, there are currently no regulations requiring a parent member of a CSE or CPSE to be trained or certified. Requiring a trained parent member be present at every CSE and CPSE meeting is critical to ensure that every special needs child and youth receive appropriate supportive services and placement.

RETENTION #5:

RECESS FOR STUDENTS – 2011 (R-'04);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the Board of Regents and the New York State 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 New York State, and be it further

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

STATEMENT: Research supports the importance of a minimum of 20 minutes of recess per day for students' social, cognitive, and academic success. It also recommends that recess not be taken away for academic or behavioral reasons as a punitive measure. Local Student Wellness Policies are required to state that recess cannot be denied; however, some schools are not adhering to this requirement.

RETENTION #6:

SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS -- 2011 (U-'02, U-'01, R-'94-'87, R);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the State Education Department and the Board of Regents to require certified school counselors in all public secondary schools, and be it further

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 school counselor in all public secondary schools and that this ratio not exceed 200 to 1.

STATEMENT: Section 100.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education requires all schools (public and non-public) to have a guidance program for all students K-12. The regulation does not require a full-time certified school counselor in every building and does not reduce the current student-to-counselor ratio.

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RETENTION #7:

SEWAGE WASTE PROBLEMS – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. support state legislation for environmental air quality and health risk studies of proposed and existing sewage plants, and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYS PTA 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.

STATEMENT: The unlawful disposal of toxic waste continues to be a concern, despite having Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations in place.

RETENTION #8:

TOXIC ART SUPPLIES – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

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

RESOLVED that the NYS PTA work to educate parents and community members about how to identify unsafe or toxic art supplies.

STATEMENT: Currently, only industrial art supplies are regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). There are some art supply products that fall outside the labeling requirements, such as certain ceramic materials and silk screen printing inks. Additionally, products manufactured in countries with less regulatory oversight may not be properly tested or labeled.

RETENTION #9:

MANDATED SCHOOL BUDGET VOTES -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. units and councils educate their community on the effects of a late state budget on its school district, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA units and councils urge the legislature to meet its constitutional duty by passing the budget on time.

STATEMENT: Late New York State budgets negatively impact staffing, programs, and ultimately students. School districts are unable to present accurate school budgets to the community without finalized state revenue.

RETENTION #10:

LEVELING UP LOW WEALTH DISTRICTS -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. continue to support state aid formulas that provide for more equitable educational opportunity by leveling up the low wealth districts.

STATEMENT: There is currently a wide gap in per-pupil funding between high-need and low-need districts, and the current financial aid formula is based on outdated poverty index data. Low wealth districts need to be leveled up to provide all students with equitable opportunities.

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RETENTION #11:

HEAD INJURIES -- 2011 (U-'04, R-'97);

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

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge local school districts and community athletic organizations to include the addition of head injuries on health summaries and yearly physical forms, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., local units and councils educate their communities on the dangers of head injuries.

STATEMENT: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is the leading cause of disability and death in children ages 0–4 years and adolescents ages 15–19 years. In 2012, an estimated 329,290 children (age 19 or younger) were treated in U.S. EDs for sports and recreation-related injuries that included a diagnosis of concussion or TBI." A state tracking system and return-to-play protocol would enable school systems to collect, analyze, and monitor information related to: the circumstances of head injuries, medical treatment to control those injuries, and the cumulative effects on youth who sustain head injuries.

RETENTION #12:

INERT INGREDIENTS -- 2011 (U-'04, R-'97);

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

STATEMENT: Currently, inert ingredients are not required to be identified individually in the Ingredient Statement unless the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that such ingredient(s) may pose a hazard to humans or the environment.

RETENTION #13:

CPR/AED AND FIRST AID -- 2011 (R-'04, U-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

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

STATEMENT: Whenever public school facilities are used for school-sponsored or school-approved curricular or extracurricular events or activities and whenever a school-sponsored athletic contest takes place at any location, the law requires that at least one staff person who is trained in the operation and use of an AED be present. Adequate training is essential for correctly using an AED, administering CPR or providing first aid, and the New York State Education Department should promote and fund such training of school personnel.

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RETENTION #14:

RAPID WEIGHT LOSS DIETS -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage school districts to include as part of nutrition education the possible health hazards of rapid weight loss diets, and be it further

RESOLVED that coaches not encourage rapid weight loss or gain for participation in sports programs.

STATEMENT: Dissatisfaction with body weight frequently leads to extreme dieting and the use of unhealthy weight control methods designed to give quick results. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, athletes in weight-sensitive sports who use rapid weight loss methods are at risk of health problems or injury. While some sports involve either a requirement to reach a specific weight or a perception that an athlete will have an advantage if they perform at a lower/higher weight, coaches must not encourage these practices.

RETENTION #15:

FINGERPRINTING CHILDREN -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

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

STATEMENT: Every fingerprint is unique and does not change over time like physical appearance. PTAs can provide a valuable service by sponsoring child fingerprinting events, while following the guidelines to protect the child's privacy and the PTA.

RETENTION #16:

LIMITING CHILD LABOR -- 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, U-'90);

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

STATEMENT: Many parents & children, as well as employers, are unaware of the current provisions in the child labor laws. They are also unaware of the effects on the health and safety of children in inappropriate work situations.

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RETENTION #17:

TRAFFIC LIGHT INSTALLATION AT SCHOOLS WHICH ARE LOCATED ON STATE OWNED ROADS -- 2011 (R-'04, U-'97, R-'90);

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

STATEMENT: Current New York State vehicle and traffic laws do not allow state funds to be used for the installation and maintenance of traffic signals at school intersections on state owned roads.

RETENTION #18:

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER 911 -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

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

STATEMENT: There is a need for ongoing targeted and well-coordinated public education efforts about the appropriate use of 911 and dangers of its misuse.

RETENTION #19:

YOUTH CAMP SAFETY -- 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support the passage of a federal youth camp safety act.

STATEMENT: Currently, the only federal legislation for youth camps pertains to youth sports camps. There is a need for federal regulations to protect children at all youth camps. Examples may include: water safety, camper supervision, food safety, first-aid-trained personnel, fire safety, and sun safety.

RETENTION #20:

HAZARDS FROM LAND, WATER, AIR, NOISE, AND LIGHT POLLUTION -- 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support federal and state programs such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the "Super Fund" and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

STATEMENT: The quality of our environment directly affects the health and well-being of all children.

2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

UPDATES

UPDATE #1:

HEALTHY SCHOOL FOODS – 2011 (R-'04);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support initiatives that would encourage local school districts to provide optional plant-based vegetarian and vegan (*remove: vegetarian (vegan)*) school entrees and nutrition education materials and instruction; eliminate high calorie, high fat, low nutrition desserts from the menu; eliminate à 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, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA encourage its units/councils to educate parents and school district staff about healthy eating patterns, including plant-based entrees, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State PTA urge its units/councils to participate in the decision making about implementing, within their own schools and school districts, (*remove: the recommendations of the NYS Legislative Resolutions J3971 (Senate) and K1888 (Assembly), and to support any legislative resolutions that promote*) healthy choices, such as plant-based vegetarian or vegan, in school lunch programs.

STATEMENT: According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), “almost 32 percent of children 6 to 19 years of age are overweight or obese; the number of obese children in this age range has trebled in the last few decades. These children are more likely to have risk factors associated with chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes.” The USDA has included the Healthy Vegetarian Eating Pattern in its 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines. The Healthy Vegetarian Eating Pattern meets federal nutrition standards. “Consistent evidence indicates that, in general, a dietary pattern that is higher in plant-based foods, such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and lower in animal-based foods is more health promoting.” It is essential that families and local PTAs be actively engaged partners in this effort to address issues of child nutrition.

UPDATE #2:

TO REQUIRE COORDINATING COUNCILS ON SCHOOL HEALTH AS A MEANS OF EFFECTIVELY USING SCHOOL TIME – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. 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 (*remove: council*) committee which would include health and education professionals, parents, community leaders and other stakeholders.

STATEMENT: This resolution is being updated to reflect current language. In accordance with federal child nutrition policies, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are mandated to have local wellness policies. In addition they “are now required to permit teachers of physical education and school health professionals as well as parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and the public to participate in the development of wellness policies.” This resolution calls for *every* school district to create a comprehensive school health and wellness advisory committee. While many school districts have

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created such committees, the only districts required to do so are those that participate in the federal school lunch program.

UPDATE #3

MISSING CHILDREN – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. inform PTA members of the provisions of legislation regarding missing and exploited children, such as the *(remove: Missing Children's Assistance Act)* **Bringing Missing Children Home Act, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Kevin and Avonte's Law,** and Amber Alerts.

STATEMENT: This resolution has been updated to reflect the most current laws relating to missing and exploited children.

UPDATE #4

SCHOOL PRAYER AMENDMENT – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. oppose a constitutional **amendment that mandates organized prayer in public schools** *(remove: prayer amendment)*.

STATEMENT: This resolution is being updated to ensure the separation of church and state. As the resolve was previously written, the language was ambiguous about the intent of the original resolution.

UPDATE: #5

SEAT BELT USAGE ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage its units and councils to support the use of seat belts on all school buses, and be it further

RESOLVED **that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support federal legislation to require seat belts on school buses.**

STATEMENT: New York State PTA is concerned for the safety of all children on all school buses throughout the country. The use of seat belts has been proven to save lives, particularly in rollover crashes. In addition, PTAs need to advocate for both the installation and use of seat belts while students are being transported.

UPDATE #6

SAFETY ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge school districts to purchase and/or contract for school buses with optional safety equipment such as video cameras, two-way radios, *(remove: and)* external strobe lights, **and Child Safety Alarm Systems.**

STATEMENT: This resolution is being updated to add Child Safety Alarm Systems. These safety devices require that a driver check the bus at the end of a run to ensure no child remains on the bus.

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RESCISSIONS

RESCISSION #1

MULTIPLE DAY TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS WITH EXTENDED TIME AND TWO REGENTS ON THE SAME DAY – 2011 (R-'04);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to have the New York State Education Department revise its policy so all students, who have extended test time of any duration as determined by the Committee on Special Education or 504 Committee, be permitted to use multiple day test accommodation when scheduled for two Regents exams on the same day, regardless of the student's particular disability or management needs, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to have the New York State Education Department revise its procedure that will grant the local school district CSE or 504 Committee the authority to make the decision to allow the use of multiple day test accommodation with an obligation to inform the NYS Education Department, through its building principal, but not require the New York State Education Department's approval for accommodation.

STATEMENT: Prior approval from the New York State Education Department is no longer required. Districts must submit a form for each student prior to the administration of the state exam. Student qualifications for multiple day test administration are determined by local CSE or 504 Committee meetings.

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NEW RESOLUTIONS

NEW RESOLUTION #1

RAISING THE MINIMUM SALES AGE OF TOBACCO AND OTHER NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS TO 21

WHEREAS the Surgeon General report estimates that 600,000 middle school students and 3 million high school students smoke cigarettes, and that smoking tobacco remains the single largest cause of preventable disease and death in the US; nearly one-half million adults will die prematurely because of smoking; 5.6 million Americans younger than 18 years of age who are alive today are projected to die prematurely from smoking-related disease if this trend continues; almost one of four high school seniors is a current cigarette smoker, compared with one in three young adults and one in five adults, and

WHEREAS every day, over 3,800 people in the U.S. under the age of 18 try their first cigarette, of which over 1000 become daily smokers, and 90% of lifetime smokers begin before 18 while their still developing brain is more susceptible to habit formation; in 2015, more than a quarter of youth in middle and high school have tried e-cigarettes; within New York State, approximately 25.4% of high school aged students use tobacco products of which 20.6% use electronic nicotine delivery systems; it is important to note that while the use of cigarettes by high school students has decreased in New York State, the usage of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has more than doubled, and

WHEREAS brains of developing teens are more susceptible to addiction from nicotine, lacking full maturation within the prefrontal cortex which controls executive functioning and inhibitory control and exhibit increased sensitivity to the addictive properties of nicotine; over 18 million (7 in 10) U.S. middle and high school youth were exposed to e-cigarette ads in 2014; smoking during adolescence increases the risk of developing psychiatric disorders and cognitive impairment in later life, and

WHEREAS increasing the age of purchase of tobacco products to 21 is an evidence-based policy intervention known to reduce youth smoking by approximately 50% and can significantly decrease the risk of lifetime tobacco addiction by 12%; almost all (90%) of persons who purchase cigarettes for distribution to minors are under 21; raising the Minimum Legal Sale Age (MLSA) to buy cigarettes including ENDS could potentially eliminate minors' ability to buy from other high school students, and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics, the office of the Surgeon General of the United States, the National Academy of Medicine and the American Lung Association, among others, recognize the benefits of raising the MLSA to 21 years, while New York State's Adolescent Use Prevention Act (ATUPA) established the MLSA to 18 years of age, and ten counties in New York State and the five boroughs of New York City have already raised the MLSA of various tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems to 21 years old, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers urge raising the Minimum Legal Sale Age (MLSA) of all tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems to 21 years of age statewide, and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYS PTA urge its units, councils, and regions to advocate for the education of all students, parents/guardians, and community members about the dangers of all tobacco products and nicotine delivery systems and their hazardous health effects.

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STATEMENT:

Despite state and federal initiatives promoting tobacco cessation, an estimated 600,000 middle school and 3 million high school students continue to use tobacco. In 2012, the Surgeon General declared this a “pediatric epidemic.” Overall it is the single most preventable cause of death in the US.

Increasing the Minimum Legal Sale Age (MLSA) of tobacco products will prevent or delay initiation of tobacco use by adolescents and young adults which will decrease the risk of serious health conditions across their lifespan.

Compounding the issue is the increased use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), which are frequently marketed to youth through product placement, colorful comic-like advertising, and appealing flavors.

Raising the legal age for tobacco product and nicotine delivery system sales statewide to 21 years is a highly effective method of deterring youth from using tobacco and ENDS products.

Submitted by:

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