

# NYS PTA 2018 Proposed Resolutions

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## **Retention 1 - Influence of Media on Tobacco Use - 2011 (U-'04)**

Nearly 90 % of adult smokers began smoking before 18 years of age. The United States Surgeon General's Report, *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults* noted that "exposure to onscreen smoking in movies causes young people to start smoking." and, "if current rates continue, 5.6 million youth alive today are projected to die from tobacco related diseases." We need to keep up this fight.

## **Retention 2 - Enforcement of Current Regulations of Children and Youth with Disabilities - 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

No child or youth should be at a disadvantage due to a delayed evaluation by the CSE/CPSE meeting. Placement should always be appropriate; taking into consideration class size and best practices. It is imperative that the Commissioner of Education enforce all of the government regulations regarding the education of children and youth with disabilities.

## **Retention 3 - Community Schools Program - 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90)**

A Community School is a school program that forms a partnership between school staff, families, youth, and community resources to raise student achievement by ensuring that children are physically, emotionally, and socially prepared to learn. They coordinate and deliver critical services, such as health care, counseling, nutrition, job preparation, to counter the environmental factors that impede student achievement. PTA needs to continue our support of these specific school programs.

## **Retention 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)**

Requiring that a trained parent member of the CSE and CPSE be present at every meeting is essential to ensure appropriate placement for every child.

## **Retention 5 - Recess for Students - 2011 (U-'04)**

This resolution urges the Board of Regents and NYSED to encourage schools to offer at least 20 minutes of supervised, unstructured time for all elementary schools, and that recess not be removed from a student's daily schedule due to punitive or academic reasons. The American Academy of Pediatrics finds recess not only offers physical benefits but cognitive, social, and emotional benefits as well. It gives students the time to play, imagine, think, and socialize.

## **Retention 6 - School Counselors in Secondary Schools - 2011 (U-'02, U-'01, R-'94, R-'87)**

With the current climate there are increased concerns about the mental health and well-being of our secondary students. There are no regulations establishing a maximum number of students per school counselor. This resolution is asking for the State Education Department and the Board of Regents to

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establish a maximum number of students per school counselor and it is asking the Commissioner of Education to have a program for all students grades K-12

## **Retention 7 - Sewage Waste Problems – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

Sewage dumped unlawfully and without being treated, spreads germs and toxic chemicals and can cause health problems, such as hepatitis, cholera, and typhoid. Through the treatment process, sewage plants release pathogens hazardous to human health through the air, waste water, and overflow. We need to advocate for air quality and health risk studies of new or existing sewage treatment plants, as well as the establishment and enforcement of regulations.

## **Retention 8 - Toxic Art Supplies – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

This resolution asks schools to evaluate the art supplies used by students and eliminate those products deemed unhealthy or unsafe, and to educate parents and community members about identifying toxic or unsafe art supplies. School children are not sufficiently protected by present health laws in so far as materials which may be harmful are not labeled and therefore not properly warned as to the dangers in using those art supplies.

## **Retention 9 - Mandated School Budget Votes – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97)**

School districts are currently mandated to hold public budget hearings prior to the budget vote. Units and councils should encourage community members to attend these informational hearings. School districts must present an annual school budget for a vote on the State mandated third Tuesday of May. Without an on-time state budget, which is April 1, schools may be forced to present budgets with “projected” state aid instead of “actual” state aid numbers. Late state budgets destabilize the spending projections for our schools. Units and councils should encourage their legislators to pass an on-time budget.

## **Retention 10 - Leveling Up Low Wealth Districts– 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

Foundation Aid is the amount of money the State budgets for school aid. Formulas are complicated, are based on outdated poverty index data and do not consider regional cost factors. Because poverty has a direct correlation on student success rates, we need to continue to urge our legislators to support formulas that are based on up-to-date poverty data. This will level up the success rates between the high wealth-low need school districts and the low wealth-high need districts, providing an equitable education for every child.

## **Retention 11 - Head Injuries – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97)**

Currently there is no system in place to monitor students with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) or concussions from year to year or school to school never mind state to state. While there are current mandates that rule and regulations relating to concussions or TBI be disseminated and reviewed as necessary (which is interpretive) while the student is receiving instructions or involved in any school sponsored activities as well as mandatory training and guidelines for when a student may return to

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their activities the system is lacking. We strongly urge a tracking system is put in place that would track an injured student from year to year and school to school with rules and regulations clearly defined and followed.

## **Retention 12 - Inert Ingredients – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97)**

Inert ingredients are not required by law to be specifically listed on the pesticide label. Because the term “inert” in pesticide labeling, does not mean that they are non-toxic, we must continue advocacy efforts to change legislation and require proper labeling of all ingredients.

## **Retention 13 - CPR/AED and First Aid – 2011 (R-'04, U-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

Currently there is a mandate from NYS Department of Education for there to be people on staff during school hours, school events and school activities, such as field trips, etc. trained in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), AED (automated external defibrillation) and First Aid but no funding for said training. We recommend that the New York State Department of Education endorse and fund that training.

## **Retention 14 - Rapid Weight Loss Diets – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

It is important to retain this resolution because rapid weight loss or gain can be detrimental to any young athlete. Rapid weight loss can lead to delayed physical maturation and impaired growth, changes in body immune response and cardiovascular, endocrine, gastrointestinal, renal and thermoregulatory systems, cause depression and development of eating disorders. Weight gain can raise obesity-related risk while decreasing stamina and performance. Any change in weight and body composition should be achieved gradually, initiated before a sport season and using sensible methods aimed at long-term change early enough to permit gradual weight change while consuming a well-balanced diet. Rapid weight loss/gain diets should not be encouraged.

## **Retention 15 - Fingerprinting Children – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

800,000 children go missing in America each year, this number accounts for run away, children abducted by family members or non-family members. PTAs can help assist parents by providing the needed identification tool either by giving them information on how to obtain a fingerprinting kit or running an event for fingerprinting. PTA should invite the police to assist with properly obtaining fingerprints, have the event convenient for all parents and use guidelines to protect the child's privacy and the PTA.

## **Retention 16 - Limiting Child Labor – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, U-'90)**

It is important that PTAs educate families about current Child Labor laws. These laws protect children keeping them safe and healthy in the work place. Full-time students currently juggle their education, extracurricular activities, and their employers at once. We need to advocate & educate students, parents & employers.

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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)**

Current legislation (Article 44 - NY Vehicle and Traffic Law) prohibits state funds from being used to pay for maintaining traffic-control signals or flashing signals used in connection with regulating traffic upon a highway under the jurisdiction of the department of transportation at entrances to schools.

## **Retention 18 - Emergency Telephone Number 911 – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

The importance of continued teaching of the proper use of the emergency 911 number and the precautions of its misuse is still relevant. There is still a need for targeted and well-coordinated public education efforts about how to use 911 appropriately.

## **Retention 19 - Youth Camp Safety – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

While some states like Texas, New Jersey and New York have state regulations, there is no federal youth camp safety act. Such an act is needed to provide each camper with safe and healthful conditions, facilities, and equipment that are free from hazards that may cause death, serious illness, or bodily harm. A youth camp must provide a sufficient number of vetted, trained and qualified staff for proper supervision. A youth camp needs safeguards for sanitation, medical services and first aid. It needs to have proper procedures for food preparation and handling as well as a healthy and sufficient water supply. It must maintain safe buildings and physical facilities with proper fire precautions. NYS PTA supports a youth camp safety act to protect children nationwide.

## **Retention 20 - Hazards from Land, Water, Air, Noise, and Light Pollution – 2010 (U-'03, U-'96, R-'89, U-'82)**

Pollution is the process of making land, water, air or other parts of the environment dirty and not safe or suitable to use. This can be done through the introduction of a contaminant into a natural environment, but the contaminant doesn't need to be tangible. Things as simple as light, sound and temperature can be considered pollutants when introduced artificially into an environment.

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## **Update 1 - Healthy School Foods – 2011 (R-'04)**

This resolution supports initiatives that would help to provide schools with optional plant-based vegetarian (vegan) school entrees. This resolution moves to eliminate high calorie, high fat, low nutrition deserts, a la carte and vending machine options that are low nutrient, high calorie, and high fat. This resolution supports Farm to School programs, and encourages units/councils to educate parents and staff about healthy eating patterns. The USDA has included Healthy Vegetarian Eating Pattern in its Dietary Guidelines.

## **Update 2 - To Require Coordinating Councils on School Health as a Means of Effectively Using School Time – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97)**

This is a language change that reflects current language under federal child nutrition policies.

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## **Update 3 - Missing Children – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

This is a language change that lists current legislation related to missing and exploited children.

## **Update 4 - School Prayer Amendment – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

This is a language change to reflect more clearly the type of constitutional amendment being opposed. This resolution opposes allowing organized prayer to occur in school, and supports the separation of church and state in the First Amendment of the United States. NYS does not have statutes specifically addressing this controversial topic, but an education code allows students to engage in brief period of silent meditation.

## **Update 5 - Seat Belt Usage on School Buses – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

In NYS seatbelts (lap belts) are required on all school buses. There are only a three other states that have these regulations which are Florida, New Jersey and California which is currently the only state with an effective requirement for three-point belts on school buses. Federally, three-point belts are required only on small school buses, those with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, which account for a small proportion of the school bus market. PTA as a child advocate association needs to advocate for all child, in every state, to have seatbelt regulations on ALL school buses. They have proven to save lives!!!

## **Update 6 - Safety Items on School Buses – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83)**

This language change adds the use of technology available to ensure no child is left on the bus.

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

The NYS education department no longer requires prior approval for multiple day test administration for all students with extended time and two regents on the same day. The CSE or 504 Committee determines if a student qualifies for multiple day test administration, the district then submits the forms to the state prior to the exam.

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

Raising the legal age for tobacco sales to 21 years is a highly effective method of deterring high school students from using tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Initiation of nicotine products use is significantly less likely to occur the older a person gets. The Institute of Medicine noted that nicotine impairs brain development and that adolescent brains are “uniquely vulnerable to nicotine addiction,” therefore raising the age would also prevent lifelong addiction and various physical and mental health crises that goes with it.