

The background of the top half of the page is a stylized American flag with a dark blue field containing white stars and red and white horizontal stripes. A black silhouette of an eagle is shown in flight, facing right, positioned on the right side of the flag.

Resolutions

Position Statements and Legislative Directives

Nevada Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

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Nevada
PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

Why We Lobby

Fulfilling Our Mission as Advocates

Part of PTA's mission is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children. As a grassroots lobbying organization, Nevada PTA's strength lies in its numbers and in the fact that we have no vested interest other than the best interest of children.

Nevada PTA is part of the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

Nevada PTA and its members have advocated for class size reduction, full-day kindergarten, parent release time for school activities, school bus safety belts, dedicated technology monies, immunization, full funding for K-12 education and parent involvement in all decision making processes affecting our children, and many, many other areas affecting our children and families.

You can make a difference in the life of your child and the lives of ALL children by learning how to be an advocate at your school, at your school district and at the state legislature or anywhere decisions are being made that effect children. It is easy and very rewarding. What you do today may have an impact on the lives of children and families for many years to come.



Guide to Using the Nevada PTA Resolutions, Position Statements, and Legislative Directives Notebook

Resolutions are submitted by local PTAs, Councils, and the Nevada PTA Board of Managers to the Nevada PTA Legislative Committee to be reviewed for meeting established criteria and then are passed onto the Nevada Convention Body for review, discussion and possible approval.

The Resolution and Position Statement Book is Nevada PTA's platform. Nevada PTA and its members may only advocate before Legislature and other governing bodies on the positions stated in this book when speaking on behalf of Nevada PTA.

This book contains the following:

- **Resolutions (Current and Historical)**

All resolutions have been adopted by Nevada PTA convention delegates (the adoption year is listed at the bottom of each resolution). In each Resolution, the "Whereas" clauses state the factual information that supports the "call to action", which is the "Resolved" clauses. Please note that with the passage of time the "Whereas" language may be outdated factually, however, the "Resolved" is still an important need. The desired outcome, the "Resolved" will be advocated for until it has been adopted into law. When advocating it will often be necessary to update the factual information contained within the "Whereas's".

- **Position Statements**

Position Statements are broad statements that define the fields of legislation within the scope of the Nevada PTA program. They are based on National and Nevada PTA objects, resolutions, and legislative policies.

How To Find Resolutions and Positions

The Nevada PTA Resolutions and Positions Book is divided into 16 sections based on subjects. To locate a specific resolution and/or position statement first look in the appropriate subject area. For example, if you are interested in Nevada PTA's position on drug and alcohol abuse, look in the "Alcohol and Drugs" section.

Index Page for Each Subject Section

Each subject section begins with an index that lists the name of each resolution or position statement contained in that section. Current resolutions are located at the beginning of the book. Historical resolutions follow all current resolutions.

The index also lists the year that the resolution was adopted or reaffirmed. Resolutions cannot be altered or deleted once a convention has adopted it. A resolution can be replaced by a current convention with a new resolution taking a different position. Position statements and directives may be altered or deleted by recommendation of the Legislative Commission to the Board, followed by Board approval.

Responsibility for Resolutions and Positions

Nevada PTA's Legislative Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the contents of this book and keeping its contents current as changes are made by action of the convention body or the Nevada PTA Board of Managers. Every effort will be made to be as accurate as possible. If you notice an error please contact the Nevada PTA Office or the PTA Legislative Chair.

Resolutions Book as a Reference

This book of resolutions and position statements -- along with the Nevada PTA Bylaws adopted by convention action (not

included in this book) -- provides every PTA member a ready reference to all positions adopted officially by the Nevada PTA.

NOTE: This book has been prepared for PTA membership use and information. It remains the property of PTA and should be retained with unit records and transferred to each new PTA President along with other important PTA documents. Nevada PTA will issue one copy per unit. As resolutions and/or position statements are adopted, each unit will be sent updates for inclusion in the book. If this book is lost, your PTA unit can obtain a new copy from the Nevada PTA Office for a nominal fee.

For further information contact
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Resolution I.0 Illegal to Use Tobacco under Age of 18

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has long been concerned with the health, welfare and safety of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, with over 20 million dead in the 20th century from tobacco related illnesses which have been proven since 1994 to cause some types of cancer and other lung related diseases; and

WHEREAS, there are more people addicted to tobacco than are to heroin in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, tobacco is the most common form of drug addiction, causing disease in one of every four deaths in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, sixty percent of current smokers started smoking by the age of 13 or 14, and 90% of all smokers began as minors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to make the use of tobacco, in any form, illegal for people under 18 years of age.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.1 Reducing Legal Blood Alcohol Content

WHEREAS, one of Nevada PTA's primary concerns is the safety of our children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has supported programs to educate children on the dangers of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, during 1996 there were 3,262 alcohol-related crashes resulting in 2,628 alcohol-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, during 1996 there were 348 auto-related deaths in the state of Nevada, of those, 135 were alcohol related; and

WHEREAS, of those 135 deaths, 14 were children age 20 and under; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that 21.2% of alcohol-related fatal car crashes have been caused by drivers with a blood alcohol content of less than .10%; and

WHEREAS, the 14 states that currently have a .08% Blood Alcohol Content law for three years or more have reduced their DUI fatalities by 10%; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would reduce the legal blood alcohol content to .08% or less.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.1a Alcohol Advertising

WHEREAS, the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States has decided to end their 48 year voluntary ban on broadcast ads; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 56% of students in the 5th to 12th grades say that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink; and

WHEREAS, reduction of alcohol advertising has been shown to decrease the incidence of alcohol problems, especially alcohol related vehicle crashes and deaths involving young drivers, as reported in a study by the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and

WHEREAS, research published in State Profiles of Child Well-Being, 1997, has shown that "restriction of cigarette and alcohol advertisements has been demonstrated to be effective" in reducing infant mortality; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that restricts or eliminates alcohol advertising, including, but not limited to, advertising in magazines, newspapers, television, radio, internet, billboards, etc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation to fund and support educational efforts to counteract alcohol advertising.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.2 Liquor Excise Tax

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is concerned with the health and welfare of all children in the state and their families, and advocates for the safest environments for children to grow up in; and WHEREAS, Nevada is second in the nation in per capita alcohol consumption, Nevada ranks 43rd in the nation in per capita expenditures for alcohol and other drug treatment services; and

WHEREAS, approximately 55% of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in Nevada, in 1993, listed substance abuse as a primary factor; and

WHEREAS, every man, woman and child in America pays nearly \$1000 annually to cover the costs of unnecessary health care, extra law enforcement, auto accidents, crime and lost productivity resulting from substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, alcohol is the major drug of choice for students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in Nevada. Numerous studies indicate that boosting alcohol taxes can be an effective means of deterring and reducing youth alcohol use, reducing alcohol-related motor vehicle accident mortality and morbidity among young people; and

WHEREAS, a 1994 study found that the likelihood of drinking, smoking, or using marijuana were 40% lower for students who participated in a prevention program during grades 7, 8 and 9; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 1996 Nevada spent \$42,000 in state dollars for substance abuse prevention programs, and this is all the state prevention money available for the 334,380 school aged children in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, untreated addictions cost American business from \$50 to \$100 billion dollars each year in increased medical claims and disability costs from illnesses and injuries, theft, absenteeism and decreased productivity, and as it pays to invest in treatment; and

WHEREAS, alcohol plays a part in up to 50% spouse abuse, 49% murders, 50% drownings, 52% rapes, 62% assaults, 50% traffic fatalities, 66% manslaughter charges, 55% of substantiated child abuse cases and 20 -35% of the suicide; and

Resolution I.2 Liquor Excise Tax (cont.)

WHEREAS, the liquor tax has not been raised in 13 years, yet Nevada is the number one state in growth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to increase alcohol excise tax rates and that the money raised from any increase in alcohol excise taxes be allocated to alcohol education, and the prevention and treatment of alcohol-related problems in children and their families.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.3 Alcoholism, Drunk Driving, Drug Abuse Educational Programs

WHEREAS, Nevada ranks second in the nation in alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, the leading single cause of death in the 15-24 year old age group is drunk driving; and

WHEREAS, one third of high school seniors said that most or all of their friends get drunk at least once a week; and

WHEREAS, two thirds of seniors admitted trying an illicit drug at some time in their lives with 40% using a drug other than marijuana; and

WHEREAS, addressing potential problems is better than reacting to an existing problem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA endorse legislation for effective educational projects with concomitant funding to prevent alcoholism, drunk driving or drug abuse.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.4 Substance Abuse Education

WHEREAS, the general welfare of the children of Nevada is of importance to the Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, the dangers associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are still present for the children of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, support exists for programs oriented toward the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs both in the schools and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA recognizes the substantial detrimental impact on the health and safety of the children of Nevada from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work to increase knowledge about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by incorporating these subjects in school substance abuse programs.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution I.5 Age of Majority for Alcohol Consumption

WHEREAS, it appears states that have lowered the age of majority to 18 for alcohol have experienced an alarming rise in driving under the influence arrests and alcohol-related deaths and injuries; and

WHEREAS, lowering the age of majority to 18 in Nevada would invite persons from neighboring states, where the age of majority remains at 21, to come to Nevada for gambling as well as alcohol to the detriment of the national image of Nevada; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA opposes any reduction in the age of majority in Nevada.

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.0 Limitation on Size and Length of Trucks

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA advocates for the health, safety and welfare of children and families throughout our state; and

WHEREAS, new legislation is being introduced to raise the weight limit on trucks from 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, longer combination vehicles (LCVs) are likely to have fatal accident involvement rates at least 11% higher than today's single tractor trailers; and

WHEREAS, LCVs – especially triples – have unusually poor stability and in rearward amplification or the “crack the whip effect” – triples show more than 200% poorer performance than conventional tractor trailers; and

WHEREAS, because LCVs are so big and slow, they have trouble merging or changing lanes in freeway traffic and problems maintaining speed on upgrades, creating serious safety risks; and

WHEREAS, heavier tractor-trailers will tend to have a higher center of gravity, increasing the risk of rollovers; and

WHEREAS, heavier single trucks above 80,000 pounds gross weight will have to add a third axle to the rear of the truck to avoid increased pavement damage, making it harder to steer, harder to keep the brakes in proper adjustment, increasing the stopping distance and the risk of skidding and making emergency maneuvers more difficult; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would freeze the size and weight of trucks on Nevada's highways to a total of up to fifty three (53) feet trailer length, and up to 80,000 pounds gross weight, and would limit trucks to a maximum of two (2) trailers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation and funding that would require weigh stations to be open 24 hours per day, to enforce truck limits.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.1 School Crossing Guard Training

WHEREAS, NRS 41.0308 states that voluntary crossing guards complete an approved training program; and

WHEREAS, police departments throughout the state may not provide training specifically for trained police crossing guards; and

WHEREAS, currently not all counties in the state of Nevada have structured training programs for volunteer crossing guards who work in conjunction with school administrators at the local schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local law enforcement agencies to adopt a voluntary school crossing guard training program for any interested volunteer, and this service should be provided by local law enforcement agencies or local school district law enforcement agencies.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.1a Obedience to School Crossing Guards

WHEREAS, the safety of children as they walk to and from school is a primary concern of parents in a school community and of Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, Nevada statute 484.254 presently requires motorists to obey the signal of authorized flagmen and failure to do so is a misdemeanor; and

WHEREAS, crossing guard volunteers, children and parents face dangers on a daily basis, particularly in heavy traffic areas or multiple lanes in front of schools. There are many drivers who do not feel that they have to obey the “crossing guards”, or have not been adequately educated to the “crossing guards” roles; and

WHEREAS, police departments in the state may or may not support the issuance of written warnings to motorists who violate traffic laws within crosswalks, as observed by trained local law enforcement crossing guards; and

WHEREAS, volunteer school crossing guards have limited/or no authority in responding to motorists who violate traffic laws in school zone areas; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to revise Nevada Revised Statute 484.254 to include a section requiring obedience by motorists to “adult trained (paid/volunteer) school crossing guards in a clearly marked school crossing zone”, and failure to do so would be a misdemeanor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to encourage the education of drivers on the roles of “crossing guards” by the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the local police agencies.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.1b Funding of School Crossing Guards

WHEREAS, children are often required to cross heavily traveled streets in order to attend neighborhood schools; and

WHEREAS, there are children who are seriously injured each year in pedestrian-vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, the adult supervision provided by crossing guards helps control child pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the local law enforcement agencies and local government agencies to provide funds to maintain school crossing guards in areas determined by local school districts, local law enforcement agencies, local government agencies and a committee of parents of each school area during the congested traffic times and after school.

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to increase alcohol excise tax rates and that the money raised from any increase in alcohol excise taxes be allocated to alcohol education, and the prevention and treatment of alcohol-related problems in children and their families.

Adopted: by the 1988 Convention Delegates

Resolution II.2 Prevention of Bullying in Schools

WHEREAS, bullying in schools is a pervasive problem that can have negative consequences for the school climate and for the right of students to learn in a safe environment without fear and one that can have negative lifelong consequences, both for students who bully and for their targets; and

WHEREAS, bullying is comprised of direct behaviors such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting and stealing that are initiated by one or more students against a target, as well as indirect behaviors such as spreading rumors and acting in other ways to cause a student to be socially isolated through intentional exclusion, with all such behaviors, direct or indirect, amounting to physical or psychological intimidation occurring repeatedly over time to create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association in 2002 adopted a new anti-bullying policy that concludes bullying is not just a matter of kids being kids, but a public health problem; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of School Psychologists estimate that about 160,000 students skip school each day because they are afraid of bullies; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Attorneys General in meetings with students across the nation in 2000 found bullying, harassing and out casting as major contributors to youth violence in the opinions of the young people; with other surveys of students, including one survey by Nickelodeon and the Kaiser Family Foundation showing bullying as a "big problem" ranking higher than racism, AIDS, and the pressure to have sex, try alcohol or drugs; and

WHEREAS, bullying other children or being the target of bullies are considered risk factors for youth violence by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, a study completed in 2002 by the National Threat Assessment Center, run by the U.S. Secret Service, found that in more than two-thirds of 37 school shootings, the attackers felt “persecuted, threatened, bullied, attacked or injured;” and

WHEREAS, bullies whose behavior goes unchallenged risk ending up as violent adults, with boy bullies being at greater risk of becoming spouse abusers as adults and girl bullies being at greater risk of becoming abusers of their own children; and

WHEREAS, bullying has gone unchallenged for too long, with parents who are often unaware of the bullying problem neglecting to talk about it with their children, with students feeling that adult intervention is infrequent and ineffective and will only bring more harassment from bullies, and with school personnel viewing bullying as a harmless right of passage that is best ignored; therefore, be it

WHEREAS, bullying behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in schools, playgrounds, buses, school activities or any place children and teens congregate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local boards of education to adopt policies dealing with bullying and have programs in their school districts to prevent bullying and secure or require skilled intervention and/or treatment for both bullies and their targets, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to support and fund programs for prevention, intervention and treatment of bullying.

Adopted: by the 2004
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.3 Protecting Nevada's Children from Pornography

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local governments to enforce existing laws to control the distribution of obscene material.

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes it is the obligation of society to protect juveniles from material that may negatively impact their social, moral, and psychological development; and

WHEREAS, pornography can have debilitating effects on communities, marriages, families and children; and

WHEREAS, the effects of pornography are particularly pernicious with respect to children; and

WHEREAS, there are magazine dispensers and cardholders filled with pornographic materials, readily accessible to children and free for the taking that are unmonitored and situated in other than commercial settings; and

WHEREAS, Federal law and Nevada law has dictated that it is illegal to distribute pornography to children; and

WHEREAS, children in Nevada often are exposed to pornographic materials while walking to and from school and waiting at bus stops; and

WHEREAS, because children have an innate curiosity they are therefore vulnerable to the "free" pornographic materials being distributed in readily accessible containers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge local governments to adopt laws that prohibit the open and/or easily accessible display of pornographic materials in other than commercial settings, especially where children live, play or congregate; and be it further

Adopted: by the 2004
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.4 Emergency Communications on Nevada School Buses

WHEREAS, one of Nevada PTA's primary concerns is the safety of our children when traveling to and from school; and

WHEREAS, 7 out of 17 Nevada school districts do not have continuous emergency communications on their school buses; and

WHEREAS, most school buses carry 80-84 children with one adult person present; and

WHEREAS, buses in Nevada travel great distances, in various kinds of weather every day; and

WHEREAS, Nevada does not have emergency phones on any of its highways or freeways; and

WHEREAS, school buses equipped with emergency communications are a necessity for the safety of our children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation with funding that would insure installation of emergency communications on all Nevada school buses, purchased or leased by the Nevada school districts.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.4a School Bus Occupant Restraint Systems

WHEREAS, more than 48 million school-age students are transported one way on yellow school buses on a yearly basis, yielding more than 96 million passengers annually transported in the State of Nevada to and from school; and

WHEREAS more than 20.6 billion school-age students across the nation are transported annually to and from school; and

WHEREAS, more than an additional 10% of these same children, plus accompanying supervisory adults (teachers, coaches and parents), are transported annually for extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to, athletic events and educational field trips; and

WHEREAS, the safety of children being transported to and from school and to and from extra-curricular events is of primary concern to parents and school districts alike; and

WHEREAS there are serious concerns over the use of various active restraining devices such as but not limited to safety roll bars, 2-point lap belts, 3-point lap belts, and shoulder harnesses, as well as the use of passive restraining systems such as, but not limited to, compartmentalization; and

WHEREAS, in a on-going effort to hold school bus transportation to the highest levels of safety, agencies such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Department of Transportation (DOT) continue research to scientifically determine the real-world effectiveness of current Federal requirements for school bus occupant crash protection; and

WHEREAS, the NHTSA has initiated an extensive research program to develop the next generation occupant protection system for school buses (ref. 49 CFR Part 571, Docket Number NHTSA-98-4573, "School Bus Research Plan"); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the findings of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and such other agencies' research regarding school bus occupant restraint systems in its entirety and strive for such legislation that would ensure the implementation of such research into state law.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.5 Rural School Zone and Crossing Safety

WHEREAS, there are many federal, state and local laws and regulations that govern the placement of flashing lights and speed limit zones near our schools—urban, suburban and rural—and differing opinions on school zone and flashing light placement for some schools, and, at times the laws and regulations do not always allow for the best placement if any; and

WHEREAS, the safety of children on their way to and from school is one of PTA's primary concerns; and

WHEREAS, the safety of all children in rural areas should not be compromised by the lack of traffic volume, as required by the Nevada Department of Transportation in its warranty studies for placement of pedestrian walkways, flashing lights and speed zones; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work to have the laws and regulations concerning school zones and school crossings written and interpreted to allow for the SAFEST school zone and school crossing situations, taking each community's circumstances into consideration especially if the local community is willing to bear any extra expenses incurred; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Legislature to revise the statutes and laws written in 1972 or any other time, concerning traffic warrant studies, to allow for the safest school zone and school crossing situations and not reflect a "rural bias" with placements.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.6 Concerning SB 341 – Student/School Personnel Interaction

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that SB 341 contains numerous ambiguities, as outlined in Governor Miller's Veto message; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA supports NRS abuse reporting statutes involving public school personnel; and

WHEREAS, several provisions of SB 341 appear to violate child abuse reporting statutes; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that parents should be kept well informed of their child's school activities, however SB 341 creates an impossible task for school professionals in dealing with day-to-day administration and crises; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the 1997 Legislature to sustain the Governor's veto of SB341; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA oppose further legislative proposals which would inhibit legitimate interaction between students and school personnel and/or restrict ability to detect and report suspected child abuse.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution II.20 Cell Phone Usage While Driving

WHEREAS, Using a cell phone while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent; and

WHEREAS, Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of near crashes involve some type of distraction; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than a half a million were injured; and

WHEREAS, The worst offenders are the youngest and least-experienced drivers: men and women under 20 years of age, be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the implementation of a public information and educational program discouraging the use of cell phones without a hands free device and texting while driving a motor vehicle, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation limiting the use of cell phones and/or texting while operating a motor vehicle, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation prohibiting the use of cell phones and/or texting while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone.

Adopted: by the 2010
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.1 Legislative Responsibility

WHEREAS, the 1997 Nevada Legislature considered 1,373 legislative measures and of this total, 691 bills were enacted and 158 resolutions were adopted; and

WHEREAS, bill drafts were often tens of pages, and at times over 100 pages long, and had many sections that changed areas of the NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes); and

WHEREAS, parents and the public want to be assured that Legislators and members of the public have the ability and time to read, understand and give due diligence in making the decision to translate the bill drafts into laws, laws which may ultimately economically, educationally, physically, socially, environmentally impact the lives of Nevada's families; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage each House to adopt rules which prescribe adequate notice of hearings and that bills be acted on in a timely manner and; be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA request that each House adopt strict guidelines regarding emergency measures, that Legislators adhere to these guidelines, and that the Legislature suspend its rules only in cases of measures that fit within the guidelines.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.2 Full Funding of Special Education

WHEREAS, studies have shown that special education students benefit from individually appropriate special education programs as well as programs provided in the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS, Nevada education regulations and Public Law 94-142 require every special education qualified student to be identified and to be provided with an appropriate program; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, thereby experiencing rapid growth in the number of students needing special education services; and

WHEREAS, current state funding fails to meet the actual costs of providing statutorily mandated special education programs and services; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that appropriates adequate funds to cover one hundred percent of local school districts' costs to deliver special education programs and services to every identified and eligible student.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.3 Block Grants

WHEREAS, the 1995 Congress proposed initiatives to combine over 300 federally assisted programs, totaling approximately \$125 billion annually into block grants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed block grants have included welfare, child welfare and child abuse, child care, employment and training, social services, food and nutrition, housing, health and education programs; and

WHEREAS, the block grant proposals generally cap funding on a national level and base funding to states on Fiscal Year 1994 or 1995 appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the block grant proposals generally do not allow for adjustments in times of economic recession; and

WHEREAS, the block grant proposals generally do not allow for adjustments for general population and poverty population growth or caseload growth; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has the fastest growing percentage growth in both general population and poverty population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Nevada programs would face a greater percentage reduction in anticipated revenues under block grant proposals than any other state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the U.S. Congress not to adopt block grant proposals in programs affecting the health, education and general welfare of children which do not fully account for Nevada's expanding needs or which lack adequate flexibility to respond to economic recessions.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.4 Welfare Reform

WHEREAS, since July 1987 the maximum Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) benefit level for a mother of two children has increased only \$18 per month to \$348 monthly for families without publicly subsidized housing and decreased \$28 per month for those with housing subsidies; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA, by Emergency Resolution, adopted at its 1993 Convention, opposed Governor Miller's "Welfare Reform" proposals because they relied primarily on grant reductions and sanctions which can lower the already inadequate standard of living for children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA, by Emergency Resolution, adopted at its 1995 Convention, urged the U.S. Congress to reject welfare reform proposals relying upon grant reductions and sanctions and/or block grants without protections for states with rapid population growth; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has long supported efforts to combat poverty, hunger and neglect of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, although Nevada PTA believes in the promotion of children's health and school attendance, it opposed sanctions and grant reductions as methods by which to achieve these laudable goals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature and the U.S. Congress to reject the portion of any proposed welfare reform legislation that utilizes grant reductions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the U.S. Congress to reject welfare block grants which do not provide for adequate protection to states, like Nevada, with rapidly expanding populations.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.5 Aid to Dependent Children Grants

WHEREAS, the standard of need (which has not been updated since 1993) for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) family of three is \$699 monthly exclusive of the cost of food; and

WHEREAS, the maximum ADC benefit level for a mother and two children was, effective February 1, 1992, cut from \$372 per month to \$348 monthly for families without publicly subsidized housing, and from \$300 monthly to \$272 for those with housing subsidies; and

WHEREAS, families of three with housing subsidies have not received an increase in maximum ADC benefits since July 1, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA has long supported efforts to combat poverty, hunger and neglect of Nevada's children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Governor and the Nevada Legislature to increase and maintain maximum ADC payments to an amount equivalent to at least 60% of the current standard of need.

Adopted: by the 1996 Convention
Delegates

Resolution III.6 “Fill the Gap” Budgeting for ADC

WHEREAS, the Standard of Need for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) families of three is \$699 per month which has not been updated since 1993; and

WHEREAS, the maximum ADC benefit level for a mother and two children, effective February 1, 1992, was cut from \$372 per month to \$348 monthly for families without publicly subsidized housing and from \$300 monthly to \$272 for those with housing subsidies; and

WHEREAS, ADC families generally have their maximum grants reduced one dollar for each dollar in earnings; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Legislature has failed to increase maximum ADC benefits since 1991; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30,000 Nevada children must rely upon ADC benefits plus that portion of their parents' earnings which they are allowed to keep in order to purchase basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has long supported efforts to combat poverty, hunger and neglect of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, an interim Legislative study under ACR 16 (1991) has recommended that Nevada adopt “Fill the Gap” budgeting in its ADC program; and

WHEREAS, by emergency resolution adopted by its 1993 Convention, Nevada PTA urged Governor Bob Miller and the 1993 Nevada Legislature to adopt “Fill the Gap” budgeting so that ADC parents can earn the difference between the Standard of Need and the maximum payment level without penalty; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bob Miller did include, and the Nevada Legislature did approve, authorization for a modified version of “Fill the Gap” budgeting to be effective on January 1, 1997, in the Welfare Division budget; and

Resolution III.6 “Fill the Gap” Budgeting for ADC (cont.)

WHEREAS, the threat of reduced federal funding and block grants has placed implementation of “Fill the Gap” budgeting in jeopardy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the governor to continue to recommend, and the Nevada Legislature to continue to approve, “Fill the Gap” budgeting so that ADC parents can earn the difference between the Standard of Need and the maximum payment level without penalty, or otherwise modify the ADC budgeting rules to provide ADC parents with a financial incentive to obtain and keep employment.

Adopted: by the 1996 Convention
Delegates

Resolution III.7 Legal Services Corporation

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes in equal access to justice for low and moderate income Nevadans; and

WHEREAS, there are significant, unmet legal needs of low and moderate income Nevadans; and

WHEREAS, the federally funded Legal Services corporation is the primary means of support to serve the legal needs of low income Nevadans in civil matters; and

WHEREAS, the Legal Services Corporation funds Nevada Legal Services, Inc., covering the entire State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Legal Services provides direct representation to approximately 8,000 clients annually and refers an additional 800 clients to private attorneys for *pro bono* services; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the clients served by legal services in Nevada are families with children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Legal Services provides individual representation in such matters impacting the basic necessities for children as Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), Medicaid, Food Stamps, evictions, SSI for children and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); and

WHEREAS, Nevada Legal Services has advocated for the needs of low income children for the Nevada Legislature and other public bodies in the state; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1966, Nevada Legal Services often jointly testified with representatives of the PTA on issues affecting children at the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Legal Services allows one of its attorneys to serve as a consultant to the state PTA Board of Managers at its expense; and

WHEREAS, the 1995 Congress reduced the funding for the Legal Services Corporation from \$415 million to \$278 million and restricted advocacy activities on behalf of children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge Congress to restore funding for the Legal Services Corporation to at least 1995 levels, and not to further restrict legal services programs in their ability to advocate on behalf of low income children.

Adopted: by the 1996 Convention
Delegates

Resolution III.7a Foster and Adoptive Children

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA advocates for the health, safety and well-being of all children; and

WHEREAS, children have fundamental needs which are best met in stable, caring family environments; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Child and Family Services of the Nevada Department Human Resources and all of Nevada's citizens are responsible for protecting and promoting the welfare and safety of all children, including homeless children, children with disabilities, and abused or neglected children; and

WHEREAS, in situations where restoration to the biological or birth family is not possible or appropriate, the Division of Child and Family Services of the Nevada Department of Human Resources is responsible for placing children in suitable foster or adoptive homes; and

WHEREAS, every child should be placed in appropriate care in a timely manner regardless of their race, ethnicity, or disability; and

WHEREAS, adoptive and foster homes are needed for "special needs" children; including older children, sibling groups, minority children, and children with physical, mental or emotional disabilities and it is important to match families to the needs of the children in State care; and

WHEREAS, the recruitment, training, and licensing, of foster and adoptive families is costly and complex, and these families require supervision, mentoring, and financial and personal support to equip them in dealing with the challenges of nurturing abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's current "bifurcated" child welfare system (split between state and county authority) hampers timely, consistent, and comprehensive services to children and the families who care for them; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to allocate sufficient funds to expand and improve recruitment and training offered to potential foster and adoptive caregivers as well as provision of ongoing follow-up services and support; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to allocate sufficient funds to increase the number of trained foster and adoptive homes for the growing number of children in State custody who need a permanent family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to allocate sufficient funds to provide adequate incentives, including subsidies, respite, counseling and other services, to adoptive families for children with special needs; and that foster parent rates realistically cover the costs of raising a child; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to eliminate the bifurcation in the child welfare system.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.8 Funding ESL Programs

WHEREAS, the increase in the English as a second language (ESL) population in both rural and urban areas has greatly impacted school budgets; and

WHEREAS, monies from a variety of programs have been diverted to support the ESL program; and

WHEREAS, the ESL program is a viable and much needed program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to adopt categorical funding for English as a Second Language Programs.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.9 Inclusion of Students with Special Needs

WHEREAS, P.L. 102-119 (IDEA) Individual with Disabilities in Education Act suggests that school districts begin to integrate students with special needs into regular classrooms; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding and training are key elements in the successful implementation of inclusion; and

WHEREAS, school districts in Nevada have begun implementing inclusion policies and placing students with special needs according to the "least restrictive environment" guidelines; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work with school districts to ensure adequate training of all personnel regarding inclusion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA provide councils and units with information and programs regarding inclusion and encourage them to keep their members informed so that inclusion achieves the desired outcome.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution III.10 Autism Spectrum Disorders

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is one of the fastest growing bio-neurological developmental disabilities in the world, which impacts a person's ability to communicate effectively and interact with other people; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has labeled autism spectrum disorder an epidemic, affecting 1 in every 110 children in the United States and 1 in 70 boys, and estimates that over 1.5 million Americans have some form of autism; and

WHEREAS, With early diagnosis and intervention and appropriate services and support, individuals with autism spectrum disorders can lead distinguished, productive lives in their communities and strive to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Improving outcomes for children with ASD's by providing early diagnosis and intervention will decrease the lifetime costs of treating and providing services, resulting in an overall societal cost savings per child served, estimated be millions of dollars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Nevada PTA collaborate with schools and community organizations to educate parents, school administrators, and teachers about Autism Spectrum Disorders and their effects on families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Nevada PTA support efforts to ensure appropriate diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other disorders causing developmental delays.

Adopted: by the 2010
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.1 Fingerprinting of Parent Volunteers in the Classroom

WHEREAS, student safety and parent and community participation in our schools is important to Nevada PTA, and the majority of school volunteers are parents who have rights to be present in their children's schools; and

WHEREAS, fingerprinting may exclude parents and other potential volunteers and may create inequities by making it difficult for some volunteers with transportation, work and language or literacy problems to be fingerprinted; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal impact of fingerprinting school volunteers will be a burden on school district budgets and take money away from education budgets; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility and liability issues facing school administrators when approving school volunteers who have been fingerprinted are unknown; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Nevada PTA oppose legislation that will require school districts to fingerprint volunteers and conduct background checks, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to develop school volunteer policies and procedures that will encourage and promote the safest school environment for children.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.2 Rights of Parental Excuses for Student Absences

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA supports the value of education and the role that parents play in the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, parents are legally held responsible for the actions of their children until the age of majority; and

WHEREAS, there are many factors that contribute to absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, it is the parents' responsibility to determine what best serves the needs of their own children ; and

WHEREAS, NRS 392.130(1) provides that a teacher or principal shall give written approval for a pupil's absence upon the request of the parent or guardian and regardless of the reason if the request is made in advance of the absence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the current language contained in NRS 392.130(1) which provides that a teacher or principal shall give written approval for a pupil's absence upon the request of the parent or guardian and regardless of the reason if the request is made in advance of the absence.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.3 Teacher Compensation & Professional Growth

WHEREAS, the state interest calls for public education to excel; and

WHEREAS, one of the most significant variables influencing student achievement is the direct work of the teachers; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to attract and maintain highly competent, well-trained people in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, there are current shortages in a number of teaching areas; and

WHEREAS, adequate competitive compensation and the professional climate attract people to the teaching profession; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation for funding to local school districts to provide competitive marketplace salaries to their teachers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work with teacher organizations and local school districts to study means to provide professional growth for teachers.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.4 Job Performance Incentives for School Personnel

WHEREAS, all school personnel appreciate encouragement and incentives to improve their job performance; and

WHEREAS, the private sector consistently uses motivational means to improve performance and meets with success; and

WHEREAS, currently there is not sufficient incentive devices built into the school personnel program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local school districts to encourage certificated and non-certificated district personnel through the process of incentive and motivational programs.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5 School District Employee Negotiation Agenda Items Made Public

WHEREAS, Nevada Statute 288.220 indicates that certain proceedings are not required to be open or public, including any negotiations or informal discussion between a local government employer and an employee organization or employees as individuals, whether conducted by the governing body or through a representative or representatives; and

WHEREAS, all school district funds are public taxpayer monies to be used for the education of children; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Legislature has adopted Goals 2000, part being the involvement of parents in the decision making process and other legislation of this type having been supported by the Nevada Legislature; and

WHEREAS, school district officials and school board trustees represent the parents and children of the school district and should have input from their constituencies in all decision making processes that affect their children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to make it law that school districts' employee association negotiations be made public.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5a Standard for Teacher Education Programs

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA and the public expect that teachers of their children have sufficient knowledge of content to help all students; and

WHEREAS, teachers preparing to work in schools as teachers or other school personnel should possess sufficient knowledge of subject content and of parent involvement practices, demonstrate professional and pedagogical knowledge, skills, and dispositions and apply them so that all students learn; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics report on "Teacher Quality" indicates that fewer than half of teachers felt "very well prepared" to implement new teaching methods, and about a third felt "very well prepared" to implement curriculum and performance standards, and fewer felt "adept" at using student-performance assessment techniques; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC), was founded in 1987 to pool state expertise on teacher-licensing issues, and as a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, included representatives of more than 35 state education departments, as well as leading teaching organizations and others, and it has created a set of model standards for what every beginning teacher should know and be able to do and content-specific standards for licensure in core disciplines; therefore be it

Resolution IV.5a Standard for Teacher Education Programs (cont.)

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Board of Education and/or the Nevada Legislature to align teacher preparation programs with the knowledge, dispositions and performance indicators of the state and INTASC Model Standards; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Board of Education and/or Nevada Legislature to require teacher education programs to include coursework regarding parent involvement, a valid and reliable assessment system that is performance-based, provides prospective teachers with continuous feedback from program admission through clinical experience and serves as the basis for a recommendation for licensure; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Board of Education and/or Nevada Legislature to develop a program approval process to evaluate how effectively teacher preparation programs meet the state program standards.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5b Teacher Licensing Standards

WHEREAS, research has confirmed that a skilled and knowledgeable teacher makes a significant difference in how well students learn, and

WHEREAS, research indicates that students who have had good teachers three years in succession scored significantly higher on state tests and made far greater gains in achievement than students with ineffective teachers over the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of well-qualified teachers is the strongest predictor of how well a state's students perform on national assessments; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada's Commission on Professional Standards in Education to align its licensing standards to the core standards developed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Commission on Professional Standards in Education to develop a performance based licensure system which would include an assessment process to determine teaching proficiency and develop continued periodic license renewal based on performance assessments.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5c Commission on Professional Standards in Education Membership

WHEREAS, research in National PTA's Building Successful Partnerships program confirms that parental involvement raises student achievement; and

WHEREAS, National PTA and Nevada PTA believe that true parental involvement can only be achieved through building of full partnerships of all parties in decisions that impact children's education; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Professional Standards in Education is responsible for determining the qualifications for licensing teachers (NRS 391) to whom parents or guardians entrust their children's education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to expand the numbers and composition of the Commission on Professional Development to include parents or guardians of children in public K-12 schools and that these parents or guardians be geographically representative of Nevada.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5d Substitute Teacher Training

WHEREAS, the fast growing population of Nevada has created a shortage of licensed teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Professional Standards in Education sets forth regulations for the licensure of substitute teachers; and

WHEREAS, to receive an endorsement as a substitute teacher in K-12, a person must have completed at least 62 semester hours of college or university credit; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to revise regulations for the endorsement of substitute teachers to ensure that they are provided with training by the district in topics that include, but are not limited to, classroom management and universal precautions before serving as a substitute teacher.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.5e Special Education Para-Educator Training

WHEREAS, many school districts hire para-educators or teacher aides to assist licensed teachers to provide assistance and instruction to individual students with and without disabilities, and to serve as personal assistants, job coaches, and tutors; and

WHEREAS, only minimal professional competencies are required in official job special education para-educator descriptions collected from school districts, and the minimum educational requirement for a par educator is a high school diploma or equivalent; and

WHEREAS, with proper training and supervision, para-educators can be a valuable resource in meeting the needs of students and families; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge school districts to provide training and mentor support consistent with their assigned responsibilities to para-educators who work with children with special needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Department of Education to implement a comprehensive system of training for para-educators who work with children with special needs.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.6 Continued Cooperation Among Educational Institutions

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA recognizes the need for every level of education to cooperate in the development of curricular standards; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA recognizes that the university, community college, secondary and elementary educational institutions have historically collaborated both formally and informally; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of continued upgrading of the quality of education in Nevada; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage all efforts among the various levels of education that foster a dialogue of common interests which will improve education for all Nevada students.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.7 Support of Local School Board Autonomy

WHEREAS, education is a national concern, a state responsibility delegated to local school districts; and

WHEREAS, a local school board is more aware of community interests and needs; and

WHEREAS, a local school board can be held accountable to the parents of a school district; therefore be it

RESOLVED, THAT Nevada PTA oppose any legislation which would diminish the autonomy of local school boards.

Adopted: by the 1986
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.8 Training for School Board Members

WHEREAS, school board members are elected from the citizenry of the State and in most instances have little training dealing with the operations of the educational programs and school systems; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the decisions which are to be made by school trustees have great impact upon the youth of the State; and

WHEREAS, it is most important that school trustees understand the financial aspects of the educational system; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge that the Nevada School Boards Association develop and urge participation in a comprehensive program for informing newly elected trustees on the aspects of educational operations, programs and finances.

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.9 Monitoring Education Spending

WHEREAS, the financial resources allocated for education are limited, and each dollar available is needed to provide quality educational personnel, equipment, and supplies; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA monitor spending and provide regular input to local school boards, the State Department of Education, and the State Legislature on parent's opinions of how money should be spent.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution IV.10 Parent Involvement in Education

WHEREAS, students respond academically and behaviorally when they receive quality attention in school and at home; and

WHEREAS, parents become knowledgeable of education through participating with students at home, through educational TV programming, and through school programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, administrators and boards of trustees respond positively to the concerns of responsible and knowledgeable parents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage parents to become involved in education.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Parental Access to Student Educational Records

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA, consistent with National PTA, feels that parents have the right to clear, correct and complete information and records about the school programs and the child's progress; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA recognizes that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and the Grassley Amendment apply only to schools which receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the statewide, uniform administration of FERPA and the Grassley Amendment.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution V.1 Support of Cultural Arts Classes & Funding

WHEREAS, the cultural arts are a fundamental form of communication and are also a key to understanding our own and other cultures; and

WHEREAS, the cultural arts help develop creativity, judgment and self-discipline in students; and

WHEREAS, the various disciplines of the arts provide vocations and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, the cultural arts are among the first elements in the school curriculum to be cut when budgets are reduced; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA oppose any legislation that would allow cutbacks in funding which would have a direct effect on the cultural arts in the schools of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA oppose any action taken by local school districts to eliminate classes in the cultural arts.

Adopted: by the 1986
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.1 Nevada Education Goals

WHEREAS, Nevada education will not improve unless Nevada communities and schools implement strategies to change the attitudes expectations and habits; and

WHEREAS, most students who do not graduate from high school aren't learning what they need to know in order to live and work successfully; and

WHEREAS, these same students have limited lifetime opportunities for success; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support local school districts in their adaptation of the Nevada Education Goals set forth in the Nevada 2000 strategy and for local communities to develop an agenda for action and to achieve the following goals:

1. All children in Nevada will start school ready to learn
2. The high school graduation rate in Nevada will increase to at least 90%
3. Nevada students will have demonstrated competency in core subject matter thereby being prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning and productive employment
4. Nevada students will be ranked among the top 10% of the nation in science and mathematics achievement
5. 90% of the adults in Nevada will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
6. Every school in Nevada will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning
7. Health and physical education be provided to all children in Nevada public schools

8. Every elementary and secondary school in Nevada should have a parent involvement program
9. Significant exposure to the arts
10. Occupational education for all students
11. An opportunity for all students to learn a foreign language
12. Participation in activities that promote good citizenship and community service

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.2 Academic Standards

WHEREAS, S.B. 482 created a Council to Establish Academic Standards; and

WHEREAS, Academic Standards in other states have been known to improve student achievement; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to involve citizens from various backgrounds in the development of academic standards; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has a continuing concern regarding the need for local autonomy; and

WHEREAS, plans to implement the standards and address issues such as remediation, retention and professional development are crucial to its success; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Council to Establish Academic Standards to adopt standards that are rigorous and measurable to ensure accountability, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work to encourage the Council to Establish Academic Standards to continue to involve parents, educators and other citizens in the development of academic standards, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Council to Establish Academic Standards and the Nevada Legislature to allow for appropriate decisions and planning by local school districts in the design and implementation of academic standards, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to ensure adequate funding for the proper implementation of academic standards, as well as funding for remediation, retention and professional development.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.3 Student Assessment and School Accountability

WHEREAS, S.B. 482 defines accountability measures for individual public schools; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 482 defines assessment of students and the use of assessments for individual school accountability; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes the overall goal of student assessment should be to identify how instruction can be improved and learning increased; and

WHEREAS, various forms of assessment in addition to achievement tests are beneficial in measuring student success; and

WHEREAS, developing assessments that will measure growth by the individual, grade level and school are of benefit to the student and parents and more appropriate than school-by-school comparison to report to the public; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada State School Board and the Nevada Legislature to adopt assessments that measure student growth as well as compare student achievement with students in other areas, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local school districts to develop and implement alternative methods of assessing students, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to adequately fund school districts to conduct assessments at intervals that will sufficiently allow student remediation and improvement.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.4 Social Promotion

WHEREAS, passing students on to the next grade level just for putting in classroom time, regardless of their ability or inability to meet basic academic standards is known as social promotion; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton urged, “No more social promotions, no more free passes. If you want people to learn, learning must mean something.”; and

WHEREAS, National PTA encourages that “schools must place priority on students’ performance and achievement...and be accountable for ensuring that all children succeed.”; and

WHEREAS, “Students who can’t keep up eventually drop out.” as supported by Nevada Department of Education statistics of a 9.4% drop out rate; and

WHEREAS, interventions such as after school, summer school/intersession programs, tutoring, and enrichment programs may help with students academic achievement and self esteem; and

WHEREAS, standards for promotion should be uniform, clear and firm; and

WHEREAS, students covered under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and ESL (English as a Second Language) will have adjusted expectations for promotion; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to support and fund legislation that deters social promotion and requires periodic evaluation of students’ preparedness for higher grade levels and requires intervention and remediation programs for students who have not met the basic standards of achievement prior to promotion to the next grade level.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.5 Computer Instruction/Modern Technology

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA recognizes as a top priority the need for educational and occupational skills; and

WHEREAS, computer skills need to be expanded to include many different types of technological advances, i.e., CD ROM (compact disk read only memory), IVI (interactive video instruction), laser disc players, and telecommunications networks/distance learning; and

WHEREAS, many teachers are not adequately trained in teaching not only basic computer skills but in incorporating technological methods into their daily lessons; and

WHEREAS, modern technology is rapidly changing and improving to meet the varied needs of society and business; and

WHEREAS, quality education requires a long-term commitment to using computer assisted instruction (CAI) in preparing all children for life and job, with skills they will need in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, over two decades of research shows that CAI produces about 30% less cost than conventional classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, several states have already taken the lead in the use of educational communications and estimate the cost to be about 1% of the state's educational budget; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications networks/distance learning and IVI provide innovative learning, and two-thirds of current teachers using the above methods polled conclude they have more time for individual instruction and it better enabled them to meet the needs of mixed-ability groups of students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation and adequate funding for the use of computers and accompanying software in all classrooms, beginning at the elementary school level, and for putting into place a long-range goal with the plan of linking the computers to a full telecommunications network; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would provide a designated source of funding to support computer technology in all schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage all teachers to become adequately trained in technology trends and encourage them to integrate computers into their everyday classroom curriculum.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.6 School Technology Monies Included in DSA

WHEREAS, as early as 1983, the National Commission on Excellence in Education saw the need for all students to become “technology literate” as part of a basic high school education, their report, A Nation at Risk, recommended that high school graduates must: understand the computer as an information computation and communication device; use the computer in the study of the other basics and for personal and work-related purposes; and understand the world of computers, electronics, and related technologies; and

WHEREAS, a United States Department of Education-funded study of nine technology-rich schools concluded that the use of technology resulted in educational gains for all students regardless of age, race, parental income, or other characteristics; and

WHEREAS, a 10-year study supported by Apple Computer, Inc. concluded that students provided with technology-rich learning environments continued to perform well on standardized tests but were also developing a variety of competencies not usually measured, such as: becoming independent learners and self starters, communicating effectively about complex processes, exploring and representing information dynamically and in many forms; and

WHEREAS, the United States and the world are now in the midst of economic and social change, computers and information technologies are transforming every aspect of American life; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Legislature has allocated “one-shot” monies in the last two legislative sessions and it is evident that the need for technology monies dedicated to schools for hardware, software, internal/external connections, professional development, infrastructure improvement and systems maintenance and upgrading, is not going to diminish; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge that technology funding be added to the DSA, that it be an additional amount and not supplant current DSA funding categories; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge that the Nevada Legislature devise minimum standards that school districts must meet and a method of accountability to the Legislature ensuring that technology monies will be used for this purpose.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.7 Basic Skills Education

WHEREAS, Special Education meets the needs of students who qualify under federal and state mandated guidelines for special education; and

WHEREAS, resource rooms provide for the needs of students who meet their criteria of average intelligence with learning disabilities or other mild handicaps; and

WHEREAS, there are students who do not qualify for any special education but whose deficiencies are such that they are considerably behind the majority of students at their grade level; and

WHEREAS, many of these students require special instructional techniques, materials and individualized instruction; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to expand basic skills programs at every grade level with adequate funding support through the Distributive School Fund (Nevada Plan).

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.8 Funding Elementary School Counselors

WHEREAS, improving academic achievement and reducing discipline problems are primary goals in our elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence supports the role of counselors in providing assistance to students in improving academic achievement and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, counselors can provide assistance in strengthening the relationship between home and school; and

WHEREAS, the most effective means to increase elementary school counselors is through efforts directed toward the local school districts in Nevada; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA endorse legislative action to provide adequate funding to local districts to provide counseling services in every elementary school in the state.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.9 Elementary School Counselor Programs

WHEREAS, schools are facing a general decline in student achievement and responsible social behavior; and

WHEREAS, parents and teachers rate discipline the number one school problem; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence suggests that counselors in the elementary school can be effective in improving students' personal adjustment, social adjustment, and achievement through early identification of problems and early assistance to children, their parents, and their teachers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all Nevada PTA units and councils work directly with their local school boards so that elementary school counselors become a priority concern and counseling programs be established in all school districts funded through current funding sources.

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.10 Reduction of Class Sizes

WHEREAS, students respond in a learning environment to individual attention; and

WHEREAS, the smaller the class size, the more individual attention a student can receive; and

WHEREAS, parents, teachers and administrators recognize improved individual performances in classes where overcrowding does not exist; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to view reduction of class size as a priority in improving the educational climate of their classrooms.

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.11 K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades Class Size Reductions

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education continues to rank reduction of class size as a top priority and educators list reduction of class size as their number one priority; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has been ranked among the last of all states in educational quality indices by the U.S. Education Secretary and ranked last in expenditures per pupil as a percent of income per capita, and in the bottom third of all states in the student-teacher ratio; and

WHEREAS, the need for individualized attention is especially vital during the primary years of schooling; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Legislature has adopted legislation mandating class size reduction but has not appropriated funding for full implementation of the law; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 class size reduction at the 3rd grade level could not be implemented because of revenue short fall/budget cuts; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in those schools districts without adequate facilities to accommodate reduced class size, the Nevada PTA urge those school districts to explore alternative strategies in order to comply with the statutory requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the priority of Nevada PTA is that funding for grades 1-2 be continued as first priority, that kindergarten be added as second priority and finally, that 3rd grade be added as third priority.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.11a Class Size Reduction

WHEREAS, to ensure an adequate learning environment and prevent overcrowding; and

WHEREAS, controlled longitudinal studies show that all children in smaller classes substantially outperform students from larger classes on standardized tests and curriculum based tests; and

WHEREAS, a smaller proportion of students in the smaller classes were retained in grade, and there was earlier identification of students' special needs; and

WHEREAS, students from smaller classes were better behaved than students from larger classes, i.e., student classroom effort, initiative and disruptiveness; and

WHEREAS, teachers from smaller classes have a larger portion of time to devote to working with each of their student's parents; and

WHEREAS, reducing the ratio of students to teachers does not necessarily mean a reduction in class size if resource teachers, music, physical education teachers, etc., are included in the calculation of the student to teacher ratio; and

WHEREAS, studies show that reducing class size to below 20 students leads to higher student achievement with minority students showing the highest gains'; and

WHEREAS, to secure for all children and youth the highest advantages of public education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to limit class size in elementary school grades 4 - 6 to twenty (20) or less students to one (1) teacher; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in cases of team teachers, the class size be limited to 30 students and under.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.12 Reducing Class Size with Teacher Aides

WHEREAS, the student-teacher ratio determined nationally and by the Nevada State Department of Education includes all certified personnel (i.e., special education teachers, music teachers, counselors, and other positions) therefore underestimating the actual number of students present in a classroom; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education continues to research reduction of class size as a top priority and educators list reduction of class size as their number one priority, and

WHEREAS, Nevada has been ranked among the last in all states in ten education categories rated in a quality index by the U.S. Education Secretary and ranked last in expenditures per pupil as a percent of income per capita, and in the bottom third of all states in the student-teacher ratio; and

WHEREAS, the need for individualized attention is especially vital during the primary years of schooling; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of Nevada's population growth is among senior citizens and/or childless families from which districts find little support for school bond issues; and

WHEREAS, California has adopted legislation which has enabled it to successfully maintain reasonable control over class size; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has no similar legislation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work with local school districts and encourage legislation, statutory guidelines and funding through the Distributive School Fund for the purpose of reducing class size beginning at the elementary level; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in school districts without adequate facilities to reduce class size, Nevada PTA recommends attentive means to reduce the adult/student ratio through the expanded use of teacher aides to be implemented with adequate additional state funding.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.12a K-12 Support Staff Funding

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA supports public education; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA supports public schools being accountable to students, parents and the community; and

WHEREAS, NRS 385.347 (School Accountability Legislation) requires public schools to provide school site accountability information to the public; and

WHEREAS, administrative and teaching faculty need time to be available to work with children and parents; and

WHEREAS, ongoing and increasing clerical demands are placed on administrative and teaching faculty diminishing the time they can spend in direct contact with children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to provide funding to employ additional administrative, counseling and clerical support staff to implement all regulations, requirements and mandates imposed upon individual schools by the Federal Government, State Legislature and State or Local School Boards or their supervisory bodies, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to require school districts to utilize any such allocated funds from the Legislature solely for this purpose.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.12b Even Start Family Literacy Program

WHEREAS, early childhood programs can increase children's chances long-term educational success; and

WHEREAS, many studies confirm that early childhood and school programs are more successful when family members are involved; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that parental education is one of the best predictors of a child's school success, confirming that when a home includes daily parent/child conversation, encouragement of reading, and interest in and support for educational growth, the child shows higher achievement; and

WHEREAS, poverty is a strong predictor of school failure; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Even Start (NEST) is a voluntary literacy program that builds on the family's strengths and intends to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and illiteracy; and

WHEREAS, parents who need basic literacy classes, English acquisition classes, Adult High School Diplomas and/or General Education Diplomas (GED) and have children under the age of eight are eligible for NEST services; and

WHEREAS, the statewide evaluation of (NEST) showed significant gains in participating adults and children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to provide additional funding to expand early childhood programs (such as Head Start and Even Start) and to provide funding to be used as matching funds for early childhood program grants.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.13 Kindergarten Experience Prior to First Grade

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that kindergarten experience is critical for the future success in school for all children; and

WHEREAS, the current statutory provision for kindergarten is not required for all children; and

WHEREAS, some children enter first grade without adequate preparation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would provide for equal education opportunities for all children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA endorse legislation that would require all children to have kindergarten experience prior to entering grade one.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.13a All Day Kindergarten

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA supports healthy intellectual growth of all children; and

WHEREAS, expectations for student performance have increased and students are expected to know more during each year of their public school experience; and

WHEREAS, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (commonly called the No Child Left Behind Act) has imposed higher expectations for all children, schools, and districts, which must be met according to a strict time line; and

WHEREAS, time on task is a proven correlate of student success in school; and

WHEREAS, many students are academically behind peers when starting school; and

WHEREAS, enhanced curriculum has been developed to provide kindergarten teachers with effective strategies designed to improve student achievement with the extended time available; and

WHEREAS, a substantial body of research exists which demonstrates the effectiveness of all-day kindergarten programs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to support and fund all-day kindergarten programs as a means of improving student achievement in the state of Nevada.

Adopted: by the 2004
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.14 Multi-Track Year Round School

WHEREAS, the impact of growth has resulted in school districts plagued with overcrowded schools; and

WHEREAS, multi-track year round schedules provide the benefit of housing additional students; and

WHEREAS, multi-track year round schedules in many school districts do not offer the students the same opportunity for remediation and enrichment classes (through intersessions) as are offered on the traditional schedule during summer school; and

WHEREAS, university schedules for teachers interested in pursuing other and/or higher degrees are more compatible with the traditional calendar; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support multi-track year round schedules, with coordinated tracks for elementary and junior high schools, when construction of new schools or facility expansion is not possible, as a means of alleviating overcrowded school conditions and as a viable calendar; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work with school districts to encourage remediation and enrichment intersessions in multi-track year round schedules; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the University and College System of Nevada to offer continuing higher education courses to accommodate teachers on year round schedules.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.15 State Funded Summer School/Intersession

WHEREAS, current summer school programs operated through necessity on a self-supporting basis creates a discriminatory situation for families unable to afford the tuition; and

WHEREAS, students learn at different rates and many need additional time to master essential skills necessary for academic success; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive summer school can provide opportunities to meet the needs of at-risk youth, expand opportunities for occupational education courses, and allow the offering of enrichment classes; and

WHEREAS, competent staff and adequate facilities are available during the summer months to provide needed instructional programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the amendment of NRS 387.1233 to provide for a voluntary, state-funded summer school/intersession program based on actual student attendance.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.16 Commercialism and Advertising in Schools

WHEREAS, in 1996, companies spent more than one (1) billion dollars on TV ads aimed at children; and

WHEREAS, advertising is a message designed to promote a service or an idea and is often used to promote a cause or influence the way people think or act; and

WHEREAS, advertising is so widespread in the U.S. it has enormous influence on American life by helping shape our tastes, habits and attitudes; and

WHEREAS, both the U.S. government and the state governments have laws designed to protect consumers from deceptive advertising and also prohibit certain kinds of advertising; and

WHEREAS, critics charge that advertising persuades people to buy products they do not need or want through the use of psychological techniques; and

WHEREAS, most experts agree that advertising is particularly persuasive to young children who do not have the ability or experience to judge advertising critically, therefore the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has strict regulations governing advertising aimed at children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA and its constituent bodies shall discourage school districts from allowing the use of materials at school which would require students to be subjected to advertising as a condition of the school receiving a donation of money or equipment.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.17 Advertisement on School Buses

WHEREAS, many children have no alternative means of transportation to and from schools; and

WHEREAS, parents should be the decision makers in what is appropriate in types and amounts of commercialism their children should be exposed to; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA feels that the use of school buses as advertising vehicles to reach student consumers is inappropriate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA opposes advertising on school buses.

Adopted: by the 1997
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.18 Local Curriculum Control

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education has already mandated graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has already mandated competency testing; and

WHEREAS, local school boards should make local educational decisions; and

WHEREAS, educational needs vary greatly among communities in our state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA oppose any legislation attempting to control or mandate curriculum in schools.

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.19 Unfunded Mandates

WHEREAS, the school districts need to operate within a balanced budget every year; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is, in some situations, requiring school districts to perform services and implement programs without providing any money to pay for the services; and

WHEREAS, shifting the cost of mandates to the school districts is hurting our students academically because millions of dollars that could be spent on books and science or other equipment instead are being spent to comply with burdensome federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, many of the required services are worthwhile and improve education, but if the federal government is going to require a program, it must provide the money to implement the program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature, U.S. Congress and the administration to include full funding for any new mandate from law, regulation or policy.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.20 Equitable Distribution of School District Funds

WHEREAS, Nevada is the fastest growing state with many newly constructed schools; and

WHEREAS, the newly constructed schools are being built with upgraded technological equipment and current publications; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA shall encourage school districts to create an equitable distribution of school district funds to existing schools in the form of tangible equipment and library publications, in order to raise the level of educational equipment to that of the newer schools being constructed.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.21 Restructuring of School Districts

WHEREAS, S.C.R. 30 requires an interim study regarding the possible restructuring of Nevada's school districts; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that parents should be involved in any decisions regarding school re-districting; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is concerned that re-districting may potentially impact the distribution of funds to school districts and the function and operation of the Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, the best interests of children is Nevada PTA's number one priority, that re-districting may have potential effects on educational programs provided to children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is concerned that re-districting could create school districts lacking in socio-economic and/or ethnic diversity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature, in its decision-making process, solicit input from the parents and residents across the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support re-districting legislation which does not compromise the quality of education or restrict accessibility to local school district decision makers and which provides for equitable funding to local school districts.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.22 Loss of Student Driver's License

WHEREAS, Nevada has one of the nation's highest student drop-out rates; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need for programs to encourage students to stay in school; and

WHEREAS, the state has a responsibility to develop programs that will keep students in school; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that prohibits habitually truant, suspended, and expelled students, under the age of 18, from possessing a driver's license or driver's permit.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.22a To Increase the Driving Age to a Minimum of 16 Years

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA and its members have long been concerned with the health, welfare and safety of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) are the leading cause of death in people age 16 to 20, and MVAs account for about 1/3 of deaths of people in this age group; and

WHEREAS, people 16 to 20 have the highest fatality rate due to MVAs of any other age group, and

WHEREAS, people age 16 to 20 make up only 5% of drivers and drive only 3% of all miles driven by all drivers, and yet they are involved in 15% of traffic deaths; and

WHEREAS, risk is highest at age 16-17 and the crash rate per mile driven is almost three times as high among 16 year-olds as it is among 18-19 year-olds; and

WHEREAS, 5,648 teenagers died in motor vehicle crashes in 2000, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to increase the age to obtain a first time drivers license to a minimum of 16 years.

Adopted: by the 2002
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.23 Gifted and Talented Education

WHEREAS, gifted and talented children will not necessarily be identified without a concerted and educated effort by school personnel and parents; and

WHEREAS, once identified, many such children will not reach their potential without proper educational intervention; and

WHEREAS, the goal of education is to help every person reach his educational potential; and

WHEREAS, research shows that methods used for instruction of such children in an effort to educate them to their potential are often not suitable for all children; and

WHEREAS, abilities undeveloped in children are a human resource unwisely lost; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation or any other appropriate action(s) that broaden the criteria for identifying gifted and talented children (labeled as Academically Talented by state law); and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation, and any other appropriate action(s) for the financing and implementation of such a broadened program.

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.24 Expanded School Year for Special Education

WHEREAS, the goal of education is to help every person reach his educational potential; and

WHEREAS, children with special learning problems cannot learn at the same rate of with the same methods as other children without intervention geared to their unique educational needs; and

WHEREAS; it is recognized that a long break in school will create regression in some handicapped students; and

WHEREAS; regression during breaks in their schooling will keep some handicapped students from achieving their potential in social, academic, or job skills; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that appropriates adequate funding for these additional Special Education Units.

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.25 Early Intervention and Alternative Programs for At-Risk Students

WHEREAS, most students who do not graduate from high school have limited lifetime opportunities for success; and

WHEREAS, alternative educational programs need to be expanded or developed to meet the needs of at-risk students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local school districts to develop or expand alternative programs for at-risk students and support legislation that will increase funding through the Distributive School Fund (Nevada Plan) to accomplish this goal; and be it further

RESOLVED, that early identification and intervention is critical and that local school boards address early intervention programs for students in K-12.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.26 Transitional First Grade

WHEREAS, the National PTA works to ensure that government maintain a commitment, both programmatic and financial, to the education of children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of the six year old population in the State of Nevada are “at risk” and have special needs, because they are not ready for first grade; and

WHEREAS, these students’ needs in any combination of the following categories cannot be adequately met in a traditional first grade classroom: physical skills (gross motor), socialization, self-concept, experiential background, visual skills, auditory skills, fine motor skills, and language and other cognitive skills; and

WHEREAS, children “at risk” need to develop the habit of success at an early age; and

WHEREAS, the transitional first grade program provides the criteria necessary to meet the special needs of children “at risk;” and

WHEREAS, the transitional first grade program prepares students for formal instruction in reading and mathematics; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that will create an adequate level of state aid for school districts in Nevada to implement transitional first grade programs in their schools as needed.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.27 360 Minute Instructional School Day

WHEREAS, numerous national studies have called for significant reform in public education which includes additional curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada State Board of Education has increased the graduation requirements to 22 ½ credits; and

WHEREAS, one of the major recommendations to improve the quality of public education is to provide students additional learning time through an extended day; and

WHEREAS, Nevada currently has one of the shortest school days in the nation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA call upon the Nevada legislature to extend the instructional day to a mandatory 360 minutes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that teachers be compensated commensurate with their increased responsibilities.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.28 Occupational and Technical Education

WHEREAS, 88% of all jobs by the year 2000 will not require a baccalaureate degree; and

WHEREAS, 86% of all jobs by the year 2000 will require some type of post-secondary occupational and/or technical training for entry level employment; and

WHEREAS, 50% of all students who graduate from high school in Nevada terminate their formal education at the 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, over 5000 Nevada school students dropped out of public school in 1991; and

WHEREAS, K-12 occupational education is a proven motivator of at-risk students and a retainer of potential drop outs; and

WHEREAS, all students including the college bound, need essential occupational skills taught at all public school levels to succeed in life and work; and

WHEREAS, occupational skills, specifically balancing home responsibilities and career skills are fundamental to building a workforce and society resistant to recessionary trends; and

WHEREAS, occupational and technical education teaches essential life and work skills; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislative action from the Nevada Legislature toward expansion and improvement of home and career skills through occupational and technical education for all Nevada public school students.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.29 Tech-Prep Associate Degree

WHEREAS, the United States and Nevada are experiencing economic recession; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's economy and current workforce are insufficiently diversified; and

WHEREAS, economic expansion and diversification are directly linked to a competent workforce; and

WHEREAS, secondary and post-secondary educational systems must cooperate and expand educational programs that are articulated and non-duplicative; and

WHEREAS, Tech-Prep Associate Degree educational programs articulate a sequenced course of study and have proven to be effective in preparing students for work while improving the total workforce; and

WHEREAS, the business and industry community in Nevada is demanding a trained workforce for an increasing technological workplace; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the Tech-Prep Associate Degree program as promoted by the Nevada Department of Education and legislative action from the Nevada Legislature which will improve and expand Tech-Prep-Associate Degree instruction in Nevada public schools.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.30 Enhancing Self Esteem Programs

WHEREAS, the schools in Nevada are experiencing many of the devastating symptoms of a student's poor self-esteem, including school dropout, teenage pregnancies, organization of gangs, suicide, drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the very foundation of a child's self-esteem has signs of deterioration including family disorientation, child neglect, family abuse, divorce, inadequate child care, latchkey children; and

WHEREAS, our schools have little or no inservice training for the purpose of helping our students with the many problems as a result of poor self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, Nevada teachers, administrators and counselors have recognized the need to help their students with their problems of poor self-esteem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation and school district programs which address the development and implementation of a complete (K-12) self-esteem enhancement program in all school districts in the state of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such programs be conducted by professional personnel trained in the area of self-esteem enhancement, such as school counselors, school psychologists, school teachers, school administrators and family counselors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these programs include coordination of school and community resources, development training programs for both parents and teachers, organization of teenage peer support systems, the development of a resource of intervention methods and materials.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.31 Telecommunication Programs in Public Schools

WHEREAS, the advancements in technology have made possible long distance learning through telecommunications; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that equitable educational opportunity must be provided to all Nevada students; and

WHEREAS, remote rural school districts are hampered by population and distance from providing a complete secondary educational program for their students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation to develop and fund telecommunications networks to provide quality educational programs in all public schools of the state.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.32 Community Service as Elective at Middle & High Schools

WHEREAS, one of the objects of the PTA is to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education; and

WHEREAS, quality education requires a continued commitment to the expansion of alternative educational programs; and

WHEREAS, engaging young people in solving community problems and addressing local needs helps them hone their skills, test career interests and develop a sense of community awareness and responsibility; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA shall encourage school districts to develop community service programs as an elective at the high school and middle school level.

Adopted: by the 1992
Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.33 Elected State Board of Education

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is composed of non-partisan elected citizens; and

WHEREAS, these elected officials are directly responsible to the electors in matters of state and local concern in education, including the appointment of their won professional leadership; and

WHEREAS, education is fundamental to our society and should remain outside partisan influences; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the position that the members of the State Board of Education shall continue to be elected by popular vote of the people of Nevada, and that the authority for selection of their professional leadership be retained by this elected board.

Adopted: by the 1980 Convention Delegates

Resolution VI.34 Compulsory Education

WHEREAS, the language contained in NRS 392.070 is not clear and concise in intent; and

WHEREAS, a number of school districts have requested assistance from the State Department of Education in interpreting NRS 392.070; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA be actively involved in legislation concerning the intent of NRS 392.070, Compulsory Education.

Adopted: by the 1982 Convention Delegates

Resolution VII.1 School Property Damage

WHEREAS, school property in the State of Nevada is necessary to provide a physical learning environment for the children of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, such buildings and facilities need to be maintained in optimum condition in order to provide this learning environment; and

WHEREAS, school property in the State of Nevada continues to be damaged illegally at an alarming rate and at an exorbitant cost to school districts; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statutes require parents to pay restitution for school property damaged by children through willful misconduct; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statutes call for restitution, only a small percentage of damaged school property is paid for under this provision; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in order to serve as a strong deterrent for the prevention of school property damage and also to conserve school district funds for educational endeavors, the Nevada PTA support the passage of more stringent and consistent legislation requiring both (not just custodial) parents and the offending child to pay restitution for school property damaged by the offending child through willful misconduct and adult offenders to pay restitution for same.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VII.2 Student Discipline in Classrooms and on Buses

WHEREAS, discipline is an integral factor in the learning process; and

WHEREAS, the education of each student within a classroom is effected by the conduct of all individuals within that room; and

WHEREAS, the safety of all students on a bus is dependent upon the appropriate behavior of all the students and the ability of the driver to focus on driving; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support local school districts in providing more effective discipline techniques in the classroom and on the buses.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution VII.3 Corporal Punishment

WHEREAS, corporal punishment is defined as the inflicting of pain on a student in the name of discipline; and

WHEREAS, it is assumed that teachers use corporal punishment only as a last resort, but studies have indicated that it is the first response to minor and non-violent misbehavior such as whispering; and

WHEREAS, proponents reserve the right to use corporal punishment as protection, but self-defense is not considered corporal punishment; and

WHEREAS, National PTA believes that corporal punishment has no place in schools, and has stipulated so in the 1978 resolution opposing corporal punishment with reaffirmation by the National Convention delegates in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Nevada does not have legislation prohibiting the use of corporal punishment; and

WHEREAS, pursuing the elimination of corporal punishment in Nevada causes no fiscal impact; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation prohibiting corporal punishment in the State of Nevada for the welfare and care of children.

Adopted: by the 1992
Convention Delegates

Resolution VIII.1 Nuclear Waste Repository in Nevada

WHEREAS, high level nuclear waste materials are by-products of nuclear reactors, none of which are located within the state of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, hosting high level nuclear waste materials may cause extreme hazards to the citizens of the state of Nevada, including the transportation of such materials on the highways and railways across our state; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has not shown that the Yucca Mountain site is capable of safe high level nuclear waste isolation; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has halted all national high level nuclear waste disposal site investigations and unfairly singled out Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the only candidate repository site to be characterized; and

WHEREAS, a high level nuclear waste repository creates a potential danger for our children and future generations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA continue to oppose the establishment of a high level nuclear waste repository within the state of Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA should continue to encourage our congressional delegation, state governor and legislators to do everything within their power to bring a halt to any federal action to establish a high level repository in the state of Nevada.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution VIII.2 Inequities in School Facilities

WHEREAS, one of PTA's objects is to secure for all children the highest advantage in education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada in the Nevada Plan attempts to provide equalization of funding to counties; and

WHEREAS, inequities in facilities exist within public schools because of differences in building size, age, maintenance levels, capacity versus enrollment and the socio-economic status of the student population (i.e., parent group spending enhancing school facilities); and

WHEREAS, students assigned to schools in poor condition can be expected to achieve below students in schools in fair to excellent condition; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that will provide additional and equitable funding to school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to establish standards for all school facilities and to establish committees to study the equity of resources among schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to bring all school facilities up to established standards.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VIII.3 Ecology Education Programs

WHEREAS, schools put emphasis on academic knowledge to provide for a successful future for today's youth; however, there may not be a livable future if we keep ignoring the impacts of damage and pollution to our environment; and

WHEREAS, people have been concerned about the deterioration of the environment since the late sixties, but things haven't improved in over a third of a century; and

WHEREAS, in Europe 99% among 60 million adults surveyed consider it helpful to teach children about environmental problems, and Swedish schools have had ecology in the curriculum since 1970, but the U.S., as a world leader, is the country most likely to determine the fate of the earth; and

WHEREAS, more American children are concerned about environmental issues, and 84% of American students said they would take environmental action if they had more information on what to do, and

WHEREAS, nothing is more important to human beings today than understanding how nature works, and no science is more important than ecology to learn about its ills, and instill responsibility to find cures; and

WHEREAS, instilling environmental responsibility among children begins with more activist-oriented ecology and conservation programs taught in schools; and

WHEREAS, National PTA has supported programs to improve the quality of the environment since 1982 and urges that environmental education programs be developed and included in curricula, pre-kindergarten to higher education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge legislation and funding to make ecology a discretionary subject in schools both at the elementary and the secondary level; and be it further

RESOLVED, that within the subject of ecology, instruction in pollution prevention and in resource conservation be made a priority.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution VIII.4 Energy Education Programs

WHEREAS, the world's population faces an energy problem and must find more efficient ways to make the earth's natural resources last longer; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. represents only .7% of the world's population, yet consumes 50% of the entire world's output of raw materials and 35% of the energy; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of the energy problem and a change in lifestyle will bring about desired conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, we must prepare youngsters to deal knowledgeably and effectively with the delicate energy and energy-related environmental questions they will be asked to resolve; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada State Department of Education and the Nevada State Department of Energy have contracted to implement an energy education program throughout the state of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, supplemental curriculum materials have been provided to most schools in Nevada and additional materials are available; and

WHEREAS, energy education is easily integrated into a variety of subject areas at all grade levels; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the implementation and continued development of energy education programs which prepare Nevada's children to meet the challenges of the future.

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution IX.1 Parenting Education for High School Students

WHEREAS, public education has been declared in need by national, state and local studies; and

WHEREAS, quality education requires a long term, continuing commitment; and

WHEREAS, education can be used to break the chain of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the state has the constitutional responsibility to ensure educational opportunity in Nevada which will provide an education for every Nevadan; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage local school boards to develop curriculum for elective parenting classes for students at the high school level.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution IX.2 Gay/Lesbian History Month

WHEREAS, the National Education Association (NEA) set forth as a resolution a goal for sexual orientation education; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the NEA is that the “accurate portrayal of the roles of gay, lesbian and bisexual people throughout history, with the acknowledgment of their sexual orientation, and the acceptance of diverse sexual orientation, and the awareness of sexual stereotyping whenever sexuality and/or tolerance or diversity is taught”; and

WHEREAS, the NEA goal supports the celebration of Gay/Lesbian History Month as a means of acknowledging the contributions of gays, lesbians and bisexual people throughout history; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA not support any Gay/Lesbian History Month.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.1 Physical Education Classes in Elementary Schools

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA recognizes, as a continuing concern, the need for formalized physical education classes led by trained and certified personnel at the elementary school level; and

WHEREAS, the President's Council on Physical Fitness, as well as other youth and sport groups, has made children's fitness a top priority; and

WHEREAS, obesity has increased by 54% among children 6-11 and by 39% among children 12-17 since the 1960's and thus constitutes obesity as a national concern with a total of 50% of all school age children being overweight; and

WHEREAS, American children lead sedentary lifestyles, watching more television and video games than ever before causing 40% of them to be considered "at risk" for cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, studies show fitness improves mental alertness, academic performance, as well as heightened self-esteem and higher concentration levels over their unfit counterparts; and

WHEREAS, studies show physical education classes should focus on cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength, body composition, flexibility, and the degree of nutritional balance, rather than on sport or game activities; and

WHEREAS, Nevada ranks 29th in the nation in the total number of minutes of physical education required per student career (K-12); and

WHEREAS, Illinois has taken the lead in requiring all children (K-12) to participate in daily physical education classes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to support quality physical education programs kindergarten through grade 12 as an essential part of a comprehensive education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the legislature to provide necessary funding to support quality physical education led by trained and certified teachers at the elementary school level as part of a comprehensive education.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.2 Hygiene/Disease and Hand Washing in Schools

WHEREAS, the health of Nevada's children has always been a top priority of the Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing frequency of resistant bacteria, viruses and parasites indicating the need for a stronger partnership between clinical medicine and public health; and

WHEREAS, hand washing signs are not generally posted above sinks in restroom areas and food preparation areas in Nevada schools; and

WHEREAS, new schools in Nevada are not built with operative kitchens and no dishwashers are available or true methods of sanitizing trays, bowls and utensils; and

WHEREAS, children are not currently required to wash their hands during the school day; and

WHEREAS, several studies conducted in elementary schools where scheduled hand washing programs were implemented. The results concluded there was a significant decrease in absenteeism due to illness during the two months following the hand washing programs/presentations; and

WHEREAS, a review of published literature from 1879 through 1986 was conducted. In the 107 years studied, 423 articles specifically related to hand washing were found and it was concluded that emphasis on hand washing as a primary infection control measure should continue; and

WHEREAS, a study was conducted by the Department of Medical Microbiology, Division of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control, University Hospital Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The study proved inconclusive as to hand washing with soap versus alcohol rub or AHD(alcoholic hand disinfection). There was however, a significant difference in total time consumption. Time consumption was significantly greater for basis hand washing than alcohol hand disinfection; and

WHEREAS, hand washing is the most important and least expensive measure to prevent transmission of disease; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts, cafeteria managers, parents and teachers to teach and implement basic hand washing practices and, be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation promoting basic hygiene in school children.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.3 Mandated Hepatitis – B Virus Immunization

WHEREAS, the safety of children is always a first priority for all parents as well as educators; and

WHEREAS, the hepatitis-B virus, which attacks the liver and can lead to a form of liver cancer, is 100 times as contagious as HIV and is spread in the same manner as HIV; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one out of every 20 people will at some point be infected from the hepatitis-B virus; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that middle school children be the first to be immunized; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that will mandate the immunization of all students against the hepatitis-B virus before they enter the 6th grade, with exemption for those with deeply-held religious objections.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.4 Tuberculosis Immunization and Education

WHEREAS, tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious communicable disease that commonly attacks the lungs, but is not limited to the lungs, which if untreated is often fatal; and

WHEREAS, TB has the third highest fatality rate world wide of any infectious disease, killing 3 million people annually; and

WHEREAS, multi-drug resistant TB (defined here as resistant to standard antibiotic treatment of isoniazid and rifampin) is increasing throughout the United States and particularly in our major cities; and

WHEREAS, drug resistant cases of TB is are often linked to foreign-born immigrants whose countries often have indiscriminate and inconsistent use of TB medications; and

WHEREAS, a random sampling of students in a Washoe County high school found that foreign born students had seven times the incidence of TB skin tests than their U.S. born classmates; and

WHEREAS, our neighboring state of California has the highest rate of TB in the U.S., with a case rate of 17.2 per 100,000, a 54% increase since 1985 and a 37% increase in cases in children under 5; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of new residents and tourists to Nevada come from California; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada has experienced a 25% increase in reported active cases of TB in 1994; and

Resolution X.4 Tuberculosis Immunization and Education (cont.)

WHEREAS, routine testing is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics since children and people working in closed contact of a classroom provide a good location for an epidemic to begin, and children and adolescents have been targeted as being more likely to develop active disease; and

WHEREAS, one undetected case of drug resistant TB has been known to expose and infect 30% of the student population, with 12 students actually developing a drug resistant strain of TB bacterium; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada state law does not require TB skin testing for students and requires teachers to only be tested once every five years; and

WHEREAS, Nevada does not receive any federal funds for TB screening, and furthermore, state funding for TB screening was decreased and has not been restored; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support school boards incorporating inservice for teachers regarding TB, its incidence, communicability, signs, symptoms and treatment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation, if recommended by the State Health Division, to add TB testing to the required immunization for school attendance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nevada Legislature adopt a Concurrent Resolution directed to the federal government requesting that the federal government assist in establishing such a program in Nevada.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.5 School Nurses

WHEREAS, many Nevada public school enrollments are steadily increasing more rapidly that the number of school nurses to serve them; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse provides services to students by identifying health problems, making referrals for treatment, doing follow-ups, assessing health for special education referrals, performing emergency care, presenting health education; and

WHEREAS, more and more students are in need of receiving daily medications and/or special medical treatments during school hours; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse is a consultant to administrators, teachers, parents, community health agencies and other school employees concerning pupil health; and

WHEREAS, the school nurse assists staff members to set examples for students with good personal health practices through education and resource materials; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of School Nurses recommends a maximum student-nurse ratio of one school nurse to 750 students; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA seek a legislative mandate with appropriation for the reduction of student to nurse ratio in order to provide adequate nursing services for all students.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.6 State School Nurse Consultant

WHEREAS, school nursing roles, duties, ratios and qualifications vary among the school districts in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, school health needs vary between urban and rural districts; and

WHEREAS, many school districts do not have a Director of School Nurses or Nurse Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, the position of "State School Nurse Consultant" exists in other states; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada does not have this resource; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislative funding and mandating for the position of "State School Nurse Consultant".

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.7 Access to Universal Health Care for Children

WHEREAS, the cost of providing health care for children has risen dramatically during the past ten years and as a direct result, medical insurance premiums have also risen dramatically for both individuals and employers; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the increase in the cost of medical insurance premiums, a 1992 study entitled Health Insurance Coverage of Nevadans, prepared by the Center for Business and Economic Research, UNLV; at the request of the Nevada Legislature demonstrates that 19.1% of Nevada's children are not covered by medical insurance which in 1992 totaled 66,763 children; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the rising health care costs as well as the increase in the cost of medical insurance premiums, a large percentage of children go without needed health care; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton, various members of Congress, the Governor and several Nevada legislators have proposed, or expressed an intent to propose, health care reform legislation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support health care reform legislation that provides access to universal medical insurance coverage for all children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that provides access to medical services for all children.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.8 Health Care Funding

WHEREAS, the 1995 U. S. Congress block-granted or otherwise reduced funding to programs vital to the education, general welfare and health of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's rapid growing population of children is projected to increase at a rate far in excess of increases in federal funds in these programs if said proposals are enacted; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering further reductions in such vital education programs as Goals 2000, Title I Grants, Safe and Drug Free Schools, vocational education, technology & improvement, and arts & education; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering reductions in funding to programs vital to the health of Nevada's children such as Medicaid and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering reducing funding for programs vital to the general welfare of Nevada's children such as school breakfast, school lunches, Aid to Dependent Children, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income for handicapped children, and the Women's, Infants' and Children's feeding programs; and

WHEREAS, the state of Nevada has long relied on federal funds and failed to appropriate adequate state funds to address the needs of children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to appropriate funds to make up the loss of federal funds to programs vital for the health, general welfare and education of Nevada's children.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.9 Child Nutrition Programs

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Act was enacted in 1946 "as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children"; and

WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 was enacted in "recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and good nutrition in the capacity of children to develop and learn"; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch Program currently serves 25 million children each day in over 90,000 schools, including over 90,000 children in 345 Nevada schools; and

WHEREAS, the School Breakfast Program currently serves approximately 5 million children each day, including over 23,000 children in 260 Nevada schools; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs goes to the school to provide nutritious meals that prepare all children to learn; and

WHEREAS, block grant funding as proposed by Congress in rapidly growing schools would reduce funding for school meals; and

WHEREAS, a child that is ill-fed is dulled in curiosity, lowered in stamina and distracted from learning; and

WHEREAS, the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are not welfare programs; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has a long standing history of commitment to these programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States to reject a block grant of the Child Nutrition Programs, and continue their long support of these essential nutritional programs.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

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Resolution X.10 Full Time Health Aides in Schools

WHEREAS, there exists within some school districts in the state of Nevada a situation wherein a full time health aide program has been implemented at the sixth grade and secondary level, but not at the elementary level; and

WHEREAS, the first aid of those students is now provided by school office personnel; and

WHEREAS, there does exist a serious concern for administering first aid following school district protocol for emergency situations, contacting parents when necessary and following school district protocol regarding the administration of prescribed medications; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for health aides to perform these duties; and

WHEREAS, the health aide is appropriately supervised and evaluated by the school nurse; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to budget the necessary funding to provide each school, not presently staffed with such, a full time health aide.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.11 Measles Immunization Funding

WHEREAS, there are many documented cases of measles and rubella occurring in children who were immunized prior to fifteen months of age; and

WHEREAS, serious complications following measles infection occur much more often in older children and adults including ear infections, pneumonia, and more rarely encephalitis and death; and

WHEREAS, although immunization and re-immunization is recommended in specific situations, vaccine funding levels do not currently permit appropriate statewide implementation of recommended measles immunizations in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, there is a concern of an outbreak of measles in Nevada; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support increased legislative and other appropriate funding to implement measles immunizations as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (A.A.P.) Committee on Infectious Diseases and the U.S. Public Health Services Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (A.C.I.P.).

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.12 Immunization of Children

WHEREAS, early immunization for preventable diseases such as Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Hepatitis B (HVB) and Haemophilus influenza type B (HIB) are necessary to maintain our children's health and well being; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton has proclaimed that the nation has a public health goal to assure that by the year 2000 at least 90% of our children under two years of age are fully immunized; and

WHEREAS, immunizations are among the most vital and cost-effective medical intervention available; they save countless lives, prevent untold illness and suffering and allow significant savings in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, in Nevada children still suffer and die from diseases that are preventable, and the solution to the problem demands the full attention and cooperation of everyone in our society; and

WHEREAS, over 80% of all recommended vaccinations should be given before a child is two years of age; therefore, parents must be encouraged to make sure their children receive all immunizations by the age of two and not just in time to start school, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA and member units support programs designed to improve immunization rates among preschoolers and actively observe the National Preschool Immunization Week campaign in an effort to educate families in Nevada about immunizations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would assist in providing immunizations as prescribed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which requires immunizations for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Hepatitis B (HVB) and the Haemophilus Influenza type B (HIB); and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge legislation requiring children before the age of two and youth receive the appropriate immunizations at an affordable cost (free when possible) and that all schools, public and nonpublic, preschools and child care centers comply with laws requiring immunizations for children and youth.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.13 Immunization at School Sites

WHEREAS, many children do not have accessibility to immunizations; and

WHEREAS, some schools currently provide an opportunity for immunizations either through school site health fairs/clinics; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts and public health staff to work cooperatively in an effort to provide improved access to immunizations through utilization of public school facilities.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.14 Funding Aids Education

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA passed a resolution during the 1987 convention supporting legislation making AIDS education mandatory in Nevada public schools, thus taking a lead role in the effort to provide such educational programs; and

WHEREAS, the 1987 legislature passed statutory changes mandating AIDS education in Nevada's public schools but failed to provide any new funding for curriculum development, curriculum materials or any other costs of the AIDS education programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA advocate that the legislature increase funding to public education with revenues specifically addressing the budgetary needs created by the mandatory AIDS education requirement.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.15 Noise Awareness and Prevention Programs

WHEREAS, it is the basic policy of PTA to support legislation which safeguards and/or relates to the health and welfare of children; and

WHEREAS, more than 28 million Americans, including many children and teenagers, are exposed every day to noise levels that are responsible for hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, studies have revealed an unexpectedly high level of mild to moderate hearing loss among students; and

WHEREAS, noise can interfere with learning, particularly language development and reading ability; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA shall encourage school districts to implement health awareness programs pertaining to hazardous noise levels and the prevention of noise induced hearing loss.

Adopted: by the 1992
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.16 Sex Education Programs

WHEREAS, some students are not getting adequate sex education training and information; and

WHEREAS, the rate of young adolescent pregnancies in the state of Nevada is increasing at an alarming rate; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school district officials to provide adequate sex education programs for students in Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to continually evaluate the adequacy of these sex education programs

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.17 Community Linked Health Care Clinics

WHEREAS, one of the objects of the PTA is to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education; and

WHEREAS, adolescents, as a group, are the most under-served population in terms of health care; and

WHEREAS, community linked clinics provide health services which might not otherwise be available to or sought out by adolescents; and

WHEREAS, according to Nevada Vital Statistics, 3,797 teens became pregnant in the State of Nevada in 1987; and

WHEREAS, community linked health care clinics nationwide provide services relating to students' physical, mental, and social welfare, and may include athletic physicals, general health assessments and identification of health problems, immunizations, first aid and hygiene, drug and alcohol abuse programs, nutrition and eating disorders, AIDS education, referrals for special medical care, laboratory and diagnostic screenings (e.g., sickle cell anemia, hearing and visual, TB, strep infection), family planning counseling and services; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA and its constituent bodies urge the Nevada Division of Health and/or the health department of each county to consider the establishment of community linked health care clinics in various locations excluding the use of school buildings except with the permission of the local school board and to create advisory committees that may be composed of health care specialists, school nurses, school administrators, teachers, counselors, PTA representatives, parents, students and community representatives whose duty it is to monitor the program and report to the health board on a regular basis.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.18 Comprehensive School Health Education Programs

WHEREAS, Goal 1 of the National Educational Goals for the Year 2000 identifies, “by the Year 2000, all children in America shall start school ready to learn “(children will receive the nutrition and health care they need to arrive at school with healthy minds and bodies); and

WHEREAS, Goal 6 of the National Education Goals for the Year 2000 identifies, “by the Year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning to”; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Service, Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objective”, (PHS 91-50212) establishes the following elements to prevent important health-risk behaviors and health problems including: unintentional injuries, violent and abusive behavior, mental health and mental disorders, family planning/unintended pregnancies, HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, and physical activity with objectives that are to be measured by the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS-national data collection survey) conducted by the Comprehensive Health Office of the Nevada Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the following are the Centers for Disease Control’s Division of Adolescent School Health’s eight recommended components for a comprehensive school health program in the nation’s schools: Health Education, Physical Education, Health Services, School Food Service, Health Promotion for Staff, Counseling and Psychological Services, A Healthful School Environment, Parent and Community Involvement; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada State School Board Association and the Nevada Department of Education have established a Comprehensive Health Elementary and Secondary Course of Study to be implemented by the 17 local school districts; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the further development of a planned sequential comprehensive school health program to prevent important health problems and improve educational outcomes in grades Kindergarten through 12 for all Nevada public school students.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.19 Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is aware of epidemic increases in venereal disease in the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is concerned with treatment of other sexually transmitted diseases; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has previously been involved with legislation concerning the control of venereal diseases; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA will endorse legislation that provides epidemiological support, treatment and educational projects designed to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution X.20 Medicaid Eligibility for Pregnant Women

WHEREAS, prenatal care is vital for the prevention of low weight babies and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, low weight babies are more likely to suffer long term physical and mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, lower income women must depend upon Medicaid for payment for prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, applications for Medicaid typically require 30-45 days to be processed by the Nevada Welfare Division; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations allow states at their option to permit health care providers to find pregnant women who provide evidence of apparent Medicaid eligibility to be presumptively eligible for Medicaid in order to be guaranteed payment for the immediate provision of services; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics has concluded that every \$1.00 spent on prenatal care results in an approximate \$10.00 savings in long term health care costs: therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Governor to recommend and the Nevada Legislature to adopt the optional presumptive eligibility for the provision of pre-natal care in the Medicaid program.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XI.1 School Library Funding

WHEREAS, educators generally concur that the school library plays a critical role in the education of our children; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that reading is essential to student achievement in school and that the size and quality of the library collection is the best predictor of student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Nevada school libraries have been historically under funded; and

WHEREAS, this lack of adequate funding has resulted in fewer books per student; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA work directly with the local school districts to identify the current conditions of local school libraries as compared to the standards recommended by the American Library Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA attempt to get a commitment from the local school districts to increase funding to bring the school libraries up to the prescribed library standards; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support increased legislative funding through the Distributive School Fund (Nevada Plan) to implement that commitment and improve those standards.

Adopted: by the 1988
Convention Delegates

Resolution XII.1 Public Broadcasting

WHEREAS, public broadcasting is a valuable asset to the community that provides unique programming to meet the tastes and needs of all age groups; and

WHEREAS, the Parent Teacher Association has historically endorsed life long learning and the expansion of enriched educational and cultural opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the future of Public Broadcasting is in financial jeopardy because of federal budget cuts; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that will provide state financial support for Public Broadcasting in the state of Nevada.

Adopted: by the 1982
Convention Delegates

Position Statement XIII.1 Neutrality

The Nevada PTA shall consider a neutral position on issues regarding abortion, sexual orientation, death penalty and other topics the Board of Managers shall determine as potentially having the effect of damaging the public image of PTA, weakening its effectiveness as a child advocacy organization by greatly reducing the cohesiveness of its membership.

Adopted: by the 1998 Board of Managers

Resolution XIII.2 Employer Support of Nevada PTA State Board of Managers Meetings

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA stands for the improvement of family life and community development; and

WHEREAS, individual members of the Nevada PTA contribute time, talents and effort to improving our communities; and

WHEREAS, some members of the Nevada PTA Board of Managers, through their dedication in attending official meetings, must miss several days of paid employment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that employers of individuals serving on the Nevada PTA Board of Managers be encouraged to allow these individuals time off; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these employees not have to utilize vacation time to attend Nevada PTA Board of Managers' meetings.

Adopted: by the 1988 Board of Managers

Resolution XIII.3 Nevada PTA Lobbyist

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has an established list of legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA competes with other agencies and businesses for the attention of the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA competes for funding of their established priorities from the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA legislative priorities deal directly with the improvement of the most valuable resource in Nevada, its children and their parents; and

WHEREAS, the officers of Nevada PTA have lobbied on behalf of the PTA legislative priorities largely at their own expense; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is most effective in promoting their legislative priorities by being in attendance during most legislative sessions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA provide financial support for the officers of the Association or their designee that lobby for the PTA legislative priorities.

Adopted: by the 1982 Board of Managers

Resolution XIV.1 Child Care Programs, Funding and Facilities

WHEREAS, a significant portion of Nevada's economy is dependent on parents who work for substandard wages which do not provide adequate resources to allow purchase of quality child care; and

WHEREAS, the cost of daycare can take up to 25% of a working family's income; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has a high population of children under six who live at the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, every child has a right to a safe, caring, nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, a safe, caring nurturing environment may lower special education costs; and

WHEREAS, the number of families needing assistance to purchase quality child care services exceeds the number of families in Nevada that qualify for assistance based on a sliding fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, there is a limited amount of care provided for school age children when school is not operating; and

WHEREAS, the provision of quality, affordable child care requires participation by the entire community including federal, state and local governments as well as parents and employers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation and funding which creates or increases programs, facilities and/or subsidies for families and children in need of quality, affordable child care.

Adopted: by the 1990 Board of
Managers

Resolution XIV.2 Pre-School Screening and Early Intervention

WHEREAS, early childhood programs can increase children's chances of eventual success; and

WHEREAS, early identification and early intervention is critical to meet the needs of Nevada students; and

WHEREAS, early intervention maintains a child's positive self esteem; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage comprehensive preschool screening programs, such as hearing, vision, speech/language, developmental/perceptual-motor, to be developed and implemented for children ages 3-5; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the confidential results be available for confidential use by schools to aid in placement prior to enrollment for early intervention and positive development of all children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support the integration of assessment tests and actual early intervention including childhood programs as mandated by P.L. 99-457.

Adopted: by the 1996 Board of
Managers

Resolution XIV.3 Child Care in School Facilities

WHEREAS, the local schools are the property of the public; and

WHEREAS, some school buildings are not being utilized as a result of decreasing enrollment; and

WHEREAS, school districts are faced with reduction of moneys for budgeting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage school districts to develop policies whereby available school buildings can be utilized as child care facilities providing there is no cost to the district.

Adopted: by the 1982 Board of
Managers

Position Statement XV.1 Support of Public Education

The Nevada PTA supports and encourages excellence in public education. Nevada PTA believes that public education provides a common experience for building and maintaining a commitment to the basic values of a democratic system of government. A strong public education system is vital to America's well-being.

The Nevada PTA believes that three key components to excellence in our public system of education are parental and community involvement, competent and caring educators, and adequate funding.

Research has shown that the more involved parents and community members become in working with and supporting their schools, the higher the quality of education provided by these schools and the more students succeed. The Nevada PTA supports strong parent involvement programs in all public schools. Nevada PTA supports parents being part of the decision making processes that affect their child's education.

The Nevada PTA believes that educational opportunities for students are dependent on the quality of instructional programs and personnel, and supports professional excellence in the education, hiring, development and retention of teachers and administrators.

The Nevada PTA recognizes that excellence in education will cost money. All levels of government, local, state and federal, must share in providing adequate funding for our schools.

In order to strengthen our public schools and provide every student with an equitable and excellent education, the Nevada PTA believes that parental and organizational rights and responsibilities must be exercised. They should work to ensure that:

- The community sustain a viable public school system;
- Parents have the opportunity for involvement in their children's school;
- Appropriate transportation be provided for students to ensure equity;
- Specialized schools provide for a fair selection process;
- Standards governing school curricula, personnel and student performance provide access to equal opportunities; and
- Adequate, objective and language-appropriate information be available to parents so that they can make informed decisions.

Strengthening the public schools requires that all Americans work together and provide support for our public school system. The priority of America must be children and public education.

Adopted: by the 1998 Board of
Managers

Position Statement XV.2 Support of the Nevada Plan

The Nevada Plan is the means used to finance elementary and secondary education in the state's public schools. The process involves the state developing a guaranteed amount of funding for each of the local school districts.

The total guarantee is made up of state revenue from the **Distributive School Account** and locally collected revenues from the **Local School Support Tax** (sales tax) and the **Ad Valorem Tax** (property tax).

In order to determine the level of funding for school districts, a **Basic per Student Support Rate** is established. The rate is unique to each district and is determined by a formula that considers the demographic and geographic characteristics of the district. The guaranteed funding is derived by multiplying the rate times the number of students enrolled in the district. The official count for apportionment purposes is taken on the last day of the first school month of the year.

The Nevada Plan contains the **Wealth Adjustment Factor**, which is a method to equalize the wealth of school districts across the state. It takes into account all of the revenue (resources) that are received in addition to the guaranteed basic support.

The Nevada Plan ensures that every child in K-12 in the state, whether in urban or rural areas, regardless of economic status or geographic areas, will receive the same equitable funding amount. This ensures that each child in schools in Nevada will receive an equal opportunity for success.

All Nevada students have the right to an appropriate and equal education, since these students will participate in all aspects of community and society.

Nevada PTA would oppose any change in law that would create educational funding advantage/disadvantage in one geographical area of the state, in one economic area or any specially defined area, for any child in K-12 in the state of Nevada. The precepts that create equity in the Nevada Plan must not be abridged, diminished or abolished to create public educational funding that would be an advantage to one child over another.

Adopted: by the 1998 Board of
Managers

Resolution XV.3 State Revenue to Address Needs of Nevada's Children

WHEREAS, the Nevada PTA believes the public interest requires that adequate and stable funding sources be developed in our state to address the needs of children; and

WHEREAS, the 1987 legislature authorized a comprehensive study to make recommendations on the long term revenue needs of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the legislature, in the 1991 session enacted the business activities tax, which is only the substantive revenue source provided since the study recommendations were published; and

WHEREAS, the business activities tax, while a more stable source , did not provide additional funding for the needs of children; and

WHEREAS, S.C.R. 43 of the 1993 legislative session states, in part, the present revenue structure for this state and its local government lacks stability and in some circumstances fails to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing population of this state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would establish adequate and stable revenue sources for addressing the needs of Nevada's children.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.3a Teacher Excellence

WHEREAS, quality of instruction is strongly correlated to student achievement, and;

WHEREAS, the state of Nevada has and continues to experience population growth and there is a critical need to recruit and retain qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes the overall goal of efforts expanded to attract and retain qualified teachers should be tied directly to measurable positive impacts on student learning based on a variety of indicators; and

WHEREAS, such strategies may include but are not limited to: professional development and demonstration of instructional and leadership skills, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to support development of research based strategies and/or programs that identify with established criteria and compensate the most effective teachers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to insure the active participation of parents in the establishment and implementation of such efforts.

Adopted: by the 2001
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.4 Establishing New and Stable Funding for Education

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that the public interest requires that additional long term funding sources be developed in our state for education; and

WHEREAS, the 1987 legislature authorized a comprehensive study to make recommendations on the long term revenue needs of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the state has appointed a citizens committee to review the study and make recommendations to the Nevada legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 legislature is expected to consider enacting changes to the revenue sources for the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislative changes that would provide new revenue sources dedicated to funding public education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would establish these new revenue sources providing an adequate revenue source for the state's public education needs in the long term.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.5 Education Funding Priority

WHEREAS, the needs of Nevada's children have always been the first priorities of the Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA continues to seek stable and adequate funding for public education; and

WHEREAS, funding education first in the legislative session may actually decrease the amount of money available to education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support any legislative and executive process which ensures that the maximum funding possible be made available to K-12 education.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.6 Reversion of the DSA to School Districts

WHEREAS, the Distributive School Account (DSA) is the state revenue from property taxes and school tax revenues that go to the school district general fund accounts; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the assessed value of school property taxes and school sales taxes have exceeded the estimates that have been used by the Governor in establishing the DSA budget; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, of all the major government functions in the State's Executive Budget, K-12 education receives only small increases in terms of appropriations per population served; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that the state's funding priority should be for education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to assure that the Distributive School Account balances are directed exclusively at K-12 education and not diverted to other purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage the Nevada Legislature to allow the reversion to the school districts of any unallocated funds accrued in the DSA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Legislature to pass legislation requiring any reversion of the DSA to school districts be based on the Nevada Plan.

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.6a Establishment of Second Count Day for DSA

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes in educational equity for all children; and

WHEREAS, funding to school districts from the Distributive School Account is based on a once a year count of students in September; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's population growth creates an inequity in the number of teachers and educational supplies in some school districts later in the school year; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to establish a second count day, after the end of the calendar year, so that school districts that have significant growth in student enrollment after the September count can receive additional funding from the Distributive School Account (DSA) to hire teachers and purchase necessary educational materials to accommodate enrollment increases.

Adopted: by the 2000
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.7 State Participation in the Construction of Schools

WHEREAS, there are two components for funding K-12 education in Nevada. One is the Nevada Plan which funds the operational costs of a school and is state funding support. The other is bonding at the local level that funds construction and rehabilitation costs of public schools, which in most cases does not receive any state funding support; and

WHEREAS, as new growth and aging schools bring on more construction needs, school districts must find ways to fund construction without relying exclusively on property taxes; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is the fastest growing state, with the addition of over 12,000 more students annually with a capital cost in excess of \$13,000 per new student seat; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes the provision of education is a state responsibility whether it is the facility or the instructional program provided; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is one of only ten states in the nation that does not have a state-generated mechanism to pay for school construction; and

WHEREAS, the absence of sufficient facility funding will dictate the use of inferior stop-gap measures which will compromise our educational programs and short change our students; and

WHEREAS, school districts postpone, delay or are unable to fund repairs and thus many students and teachers find themselves in a physical environment that adversely affects the morale and in some cases their health; and

WHEREAS, according to the 1996 GAO (Government Accounting Office) report on "School Facilities: Profiles of School Condition by State" : 23% of all Nevada schools reported at least one inadequate building, 42% related at least one inadequate building feature (such as roof, walls, floors, lighting, life-safety code problems, etc.); 57% reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental feature (such as lighting, heating, ventilation, etc.); and

WHEREAS, there are rehabilitation and new education facility needs across our state and the different economic settings across the state create the ability or inability of different funding mechanisms to succeed in providing the necessary funding to meet particular school district facility needs and many have difficulty in passing bond measures; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to continue its state oversight into the state's education facility needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge that any money raised by the State of Nevada for school capital projects, be equitably raised and distributed, based on a needs assessment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge local government entities and the State of Nevada to consider all possible funding to meet the capital needs of school districts and Nevada PTA urges that careful consideration should be given to any financing alternatives designed to increase revenues at the local level to ensure that new disparities in district wealth are not created and that any existing disparities are not enhanced; and be it further

Resolution XV.7 State Participation in the Construction of Schools (cont.)

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature ensure that any monies distributed by the state for construction/rehabilitation must be accounted for separately, urging the legislature to develop accountability criteria for expenditures, reporting methods and time lines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature and local government entities to consider all of the possible funding mechanisms, including but not limited to, those listed below for use in meeting the state's education capital needs:

Long term dedicated property tax
Gaming tax
Real Estate Transfer fee
Roll over of school district debt service tax rates
Exemption of School District debt service or "pay as you go" from the \$3.64 cap
Tax on residential construction
Government and local utility providers participation in infrastructure support
State general obligation bonds
Allocation of .15 of state property tax rate to a state fund for school district capital projects
Use of all or portion of any balances that remain at the end of each biennium in the DSA
Expansion of the sales tax base
Dedicate a fixed portion of existing state school sales taxes to capital construction
Room tax
Impact fees

Adopted: by the 1998
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.8 "Tax Base" Funding

WHEREAS, federal funding has decreased; and

WHEREAS, expenditures for public education have increased dramatically with per pupil enrollment; and

WHEREAS, an enrollment rate increase of 11.9% is projected in the next five years with special education increasing 8% statewide; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 legislature has passed a number of laws that require funding; and

WHEREAS, we have to be assured that these goals for educational funding are reached; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation to increase the "tax base" of the state of Nevada as a source for funding education.

Adopted: by the 1990
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.9 Development Impact on School and Developer Assistance

WHEREAS, Nevada is the fastest growing state in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the impact of residential, commercial and industrial development affects school districts, cities and counties alike; and

WHEREAS, school districts and other local governments, e.g. cities and counties, are limited by statute to specific funding methods and sources to finance construction; and

WHEREAS, traditional sources of funding are primarily those that require voter approval of bond issues and pay as you go ballot questions which, as the only available alternative, have often proven to be inadequate; and

WHEREAS, other methods of providing resources to fund public facilities must be considered and provided for in statute; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge local government entities (city and county) to cooperate and communicate with local school districts in determining the impact of development on the local school district; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to enact legislation that require developers of residential, commercial and industrial developments to provide additional financial resources necessary to assist local districts in the development of school facilities. Resources should include, but are not limited to. Impact fees and donations of land.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.10 Raising the Ad Valorem Tax Cap

WHEREAS, Nevada Statute 361.453 limits the total ad valorem tax not to exceed \$3.64 of each \$100 of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is the fastest growing state and therefore has facility and equipment needs that are unmet through the general operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, bonding is the only method by which school facilities are built in Nevada and the greatest public benefit is in well educated children, educated in safe, well maintained, uncrowded environments; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA support legislation that would increase the ad valorem cap not more than the constitutional limit or support legislation which would remove school funding and indigent care from the cap.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

**Nevada
PTA**

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Resolution XV.11 Charter Schools

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA acknowledges charter schools as one avenue to school reform; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA encourages parent participation in all levels of the decision making education processes affecting our children's education; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is a strong advocate of excellence in education in the public school system and charter schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that charter schools must meet the following minimum standards:

- Be open to all students
- Be supported by specifically allocated public funds in amounts that do not exceed and do not divert moneys from public schools
- Adhere to all federal and state laws which protect the health and welfare of children, prohibit discrimination and insure access for all children, and comply with the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts
- Comply with federal and state laws governing schools which require fiscal responsibility and accountability
- Be made accountable to the local school boards in the districts in which they are located
- Ensure that professional staff are certified for the position they hold
- Involve parents** in the decision-making process

- Have a mechanism for independent evaluation to determine if they are providing students with an education at least compatible to public schools and fulfilling their mission of innovation.

Charter schools must not:

- Be operated by for-profit organizations, nor be affiliated with a non-public sectarian, religious or home-based school
- Charge tuition or fees not charged by public schools
- Have a negative impact on public schools

** All uses of "parent" refer to any adult who has primary responsibility for the education and welfare of a child.

Adopted: by the 1997
Convention Delegates

Position Statement Opposing Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits and Deductions as System of Education Aid

The Nevada PTA opposes education voucher proposals for public and nonpublic preschool, elementary and secondary school students.

The Nevada PTA opposes tax credits and deductions for elementary and secondary school tuition and other education-related expenses for public and nonpublic school students.

The Nevada PTA believes that these funding methods would have a detrimental effect on our public school system. Such funding would promote division without diversity, create division and separation within the community and negate the long struggle to desegregate our schools and our society. It is the opinion of the Nevada PTA that vouchers and similar systems could violate the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

The Nevada PTA recognizes that changes must be made within the public schools to provide an equitable and excellent educational opportunity for every child. Vouchers, tax credits, deductions and other such funding sources do not provide the means for bringing about improvements in our public schools.

The Nevada PTA supports our system of public education as the major vehicle for perpetuating the basic values of a democratic system of government. This system must be strengthened and continue to be governed by public officials accountable to the public and supported by adequate funding.

Adopted: by the 1998 Board of
Managers

Resolution XV.13 Opposition to Tuition Tax Credit in Elementary/Secondary Levels

WHEREAS, tuition tax credit legislation threatens the education of 90% of American school children who attend public schools by directing billions of dollars to students in non-public schools; and

WHEREAS, at a time when thousands of poor students seeking higher education are underserved, tuition tax credit legislation would give massive aid to those who need it least; and

WHEREAS, tuition tax credits at all levels would reverse the traditional federal policy of assistance based on need, and funding of specific, categorical programs; and

WHEREAS, tuition tax credits would institutionalize a two-class educational system, with only those children whom private schools admit or whose parents can afford to pay the balance of tuition costs benefiting, with schools becoming segregated by class, by creed and by color; and

WHEREAS, tuition tax credits at the elementary and secondary level have been declared unconstitutional in three unequivocal Supreme Court decisions; and

WHEREAS, at a time when there is a new national push for academic excellence, tuition tax credit legislation could lead to the destruction of the public schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA go on record as being opposed to any tuition tax credit legislation at the elementary and secondary levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage its members of Congress to oppose vigorously, tuition tax credit legislation

Adopted: by the 1980
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.14 Federal Funding for Federal Education Programs

WHEREAS, the federal government has historically provided funding to the State of Nevada through its State Department of Education which is vital to the educational needs of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has long supported the federally funded programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada would lose over \$10 million from its FY 1997 appropriation under proposals pending before the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the affected programs include Safe and Drug Free Schools, Vocational Education, Tech-Prep Education and Goals 2000; and

WHEREAS, for FY 1993, Nevada received over \$78 million in federal funding for education; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the U.S. Congress to maintain full funding for the U.S. Department of Education programs for FY 1997 and the future.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.15 Proportionately Equitable Distribution of School District Funds to Elementary Schools

WHEREAS, there exists a great inequity in the distribution of school district funds between elementary schools, middle schools and high schools; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, proportionately, the student population of elementary schools equals, or exceeds that of middle schools or high schools; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that the elementary school years are critical in a child's intellectual and social development; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA shall encourage school districts to create a more equitable, proportionate distribution of school district funds to elementary schools.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.16 Parent Release Time for School Activities

WHEREAS, parental involvement in school has long been considered of utmost importance in the establishment of self esteem and pride in children; and

WHEREAS, the traditional family has all but disappeared with the increase in working single-parents and families where both parents work; and

WHEREAS, parents of school-age children are often prevented from attending activities at school because of strict work schedules; and

WHEREAS, there is a local, state and national awareness of the need for increased parent and community involvement in the education of our nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, the education of the youth of Nevada and our nation is a primary concern of the citizens of Nevada and the United States; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge the Nevada Legislature to encourage employers in the State of Nevada to allow leave for a minimum of 4 hours per school year to allow employees with school-age children time to participate in the activities of their local schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this leave would be granted by an employer when given advanced notice by the employee which would allow for any necessary adjustments in workers' schedules; and be it further

RESOLVED, that employers be encouraged to provide a procedure for schools to contact a parent during work hours in the event that an emergency occurs at school involving the parent's child.

Adopted: by the 1994
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.17 Parent-Teacher Conferences

WHEREAS, parent communication is a necessity to good education; and

WHEREAS, work schedules often conflict, making parent conferences difficult; and

WHEREAS, PTA is committed to helping with the special problems of working and single parents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge its units and councils to commend those businesses that allow employees leave to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA urge its units and councils to encourage local businesses to adopt personnel policies that will allow parents administrative leave for the purpose of attending Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.17a

Use of Tobacco Settlement Monies

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA is concerned about the health, education and welfare of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, smoking in the teenage years causes permanent genetic changes in the lungs, lung damage that lasts a lifetime, and forever increases the risk of lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is the lowest in the nation of high school graduates who continue on to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that children who continue on to higher education improve Nevada's economic diversification through a better educated workforce; and

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA believes that the education of children will lessen their use of harmful substances; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage that the majority of tobacco settlement monies be used for tobacco education, prevention and rehabilitation of children and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage that a portion of the tobacco settlement monies be used for the higher education of Nevada's children who obtain a Nevada high school diploma or its equivalent, and who are admissible and will be attending the University and/or Community College system in Nevada.

Adopted: by the 1999
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.18

School and Community Partnerships

WHEREAS, the Education Commission of the States Task Force on Education for Economic Growth specifically recommends that business leaders across the nation work actively to establish partnerships between businesses and schools; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan has declared 1983-84 as the National Year of Partnerships in Education, encouraging schools to develop private sector partnerships in an effort to broaden available resources and reach out to their community; and

WHEREAS, school and community partnerships serve as a worthwhile investment for the involved private sector that will pay off in human capital; and

WHEREAS, such partnerships can trigger a change of attitude and broadened support in the community, increase the educational advantages available to students and staff, and increase the overall quality of local education and school management; and

WHEREAS, school and community partnerships can build morale in the schools and improve public relations for all participating partners; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA advocate all Nevada school districts establish partnerships with business, community, governmental, cultural, and other educational entities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA encourage all school sites within each school district to conduct a needs assessment to determine where programs could be enhanced by partnerships with the private sector; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA recommend that all Nevada school districts developing such partnerships include within each program a means for evaluation.

Adopted: by the 1984
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.19 Ending Fund Balance of School Districts

WHEREAS, the ending fund balance in a governmental budget reflects sound fiscal management; and

WHEREAS, the ending fund balance provides the funds necessary to operate during the beginning of a new fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, a regulation of the Nevada Tax Commission authorizes school districts and other local governments to appropriate an ending fund balance of no more than 8.33% of its general fund, less capital outlay; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Advisory Committee has scheduled action at its January 1994, meeting strongly recommending appropriation of ending fund balances of no less than 4% nor more than 8.33%; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada maintains a 5% ending fund balance that is not incorporated as revenue in the ensuing budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the State of Nevada not factor in the ending fund balance of a school district when determining state financial aid.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates

Resolution XV.20 Gibbons Tax Initiative

WHEREAS, Nevada PTA has long believed that the public interest requires that adequate and stable funding sources be developed in our state for education and to address the needs of Nevada's children; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding for education remains the top legislative priority of the Nevada PTA; and

WHEREAS, the "Gibbons Tax Initiative" would require 2/3 majority of both houses of the Nevada Legislature to pass legislation increasing taxes or fees; and

WHEREAS, the "Gibbons Tax Initiative" would allow a minority in one house of the Legislature to block revenue increases necessary to address the needs of Nevada's children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA vigorously oppose the passage of the "Gibbons Tax Initiative"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Nevada PTA oppose further legislation of equal or similar intent.

Adopted: by the 1996
Convention Delegates