



**Do You Want to Help Shape the Future for Nevada's Youth?
With RESOLUTIONS You Can!**

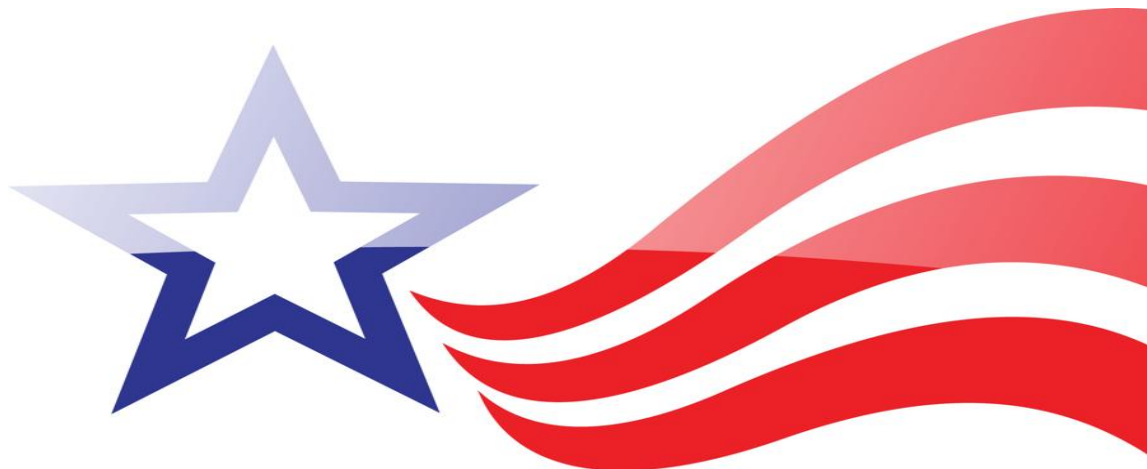


Resolutions are an important way for local PTA units and councils to shape the work of the PTA. The passage of a resolution at the Nevada PTA Convention directs the state Board of Managers, Councils and local units in areas of advocacy, legislative priority, and program development.

Do you have an issue that really concerns you and other members of your local unit/council?

Do you want to bring your concern to the attention of other PTA members in Nevada?

Then get started now and have your resolution presented for consideration at Nevada PTA Convention April 26-28, 2012.





Guidelines for Developing Resolutions and Legislative Positions

The Board of Managers of Nevada PTA reserves the right to reject a resolution/ legislative position for any reason deemed necessary for the best interest of the Nevada/National PTA.

What is a Legislative Position?

A legislative *position* is a statement outlining the opinion, will or intent of the association to address statewide problems, situations or concerns that affect children and youth. A position statement usually requires initial action to seek resolution on the issue, but the position is sometimes maintained, even when action has been taken, to substantiate the continuing will of the association.

What is a Resolution?

A *resolution* is an original main motion which, because of its importance, length, or complexity, is submitted in writing. Resolutions call for action by Nevada PTA or its constituent bodies (councils or local units). Resolutions seek to address problems, situations or concerns which affect children and youth and which require action for solution.

Why Submit a Resolution or Legislative Position?

Nevada PTA resolutions and legislative positions seek to address problems, situations or concerns that affect children and youth statewide and that require statewide action to be resolved. Positions and resolutions that receive approval from the delegates at Nevada PTA convention each year become part of the Nevada PTA's legislative agenda. Board members, volunteers and staff use this agenda - the voice of our membership - to persuade legislators and government officials to enact PTA's positions into law.

Who Submits a Resolution or Legislative Position?

Local units, Councils, or the Nevada PTA Board of Managers, may submit resolutions or legislative positions for consideration by the Nevada PTA convention body. The resolution or legislative position must have been presented to and adopted by the voting body of the submitting group.

When Are They Submitted?

Two copies of the resolution or legislative position submission package must be sent to the Nevada PTA Office, to be received no later than **January 18, 2012**.

What Criteria Must They Meet?

Each resolution or legislative position submitted to the Nevada PTA is subject to consideration by the Legislative Services committee and must meet the following criteria:

- Relate to the education, health, safety, or welfare of children and youth, or parental education and involvement of parents;
- Be in harmony with national and state PTA policies - noncommercial, nonpartisan, nonsectarian;
- Concern a matter of national or state scope, not merely local interest;
- Provide three background references from different sources for each "Whereas";
- Cite materials that are current (published no more than six years ago);
- Request action that is both physically and financially feasible for the Nevada PTA to undertake; and
- State a position not previously adopted by the Nevada PTA.

What Must be Submitted?

1. The cover sheet completed and signed by the originating group. The cover sheet must include the signatures of the PTA president and secretary and indicate the date on which the proposal was adopted by the originating group.
2. The resolution or legislative position itself.
3. Table of Contents for supporting materials.
4. A Rationale Statement (one page or less) summarizing the issue and the need for the requested action.
5. Background materials, documenting each "whereas" clause in a resolution or each statement in a legislative position. This material should indicate that the subject was well researched by the submitting group and should be sufficient to give a person with no previous knowledge of the subject enough information to make an intelligent decision. The material must be unbiased and well balanced and may include PTA-related information such as statements or policies; copies of document research, pertinent laws, surveys or statistics; and copies of relevant articles from publications. Newspaper articles and editorials alone are not sufficient background material. When including articles, submit them in their entirety.

What Do They Look Like?

Resolutions usually consist of two parts:

1. Whereas Clause(s) - preamble or introductory statement(s) that contain the background information and reasons for the resolution. Each statement of information or rationale is listed separately and begins with the word "whereas."
2. Resolved Clause(s) - the request for action. Each action has its own "resolved" clause.

Legislative positions usually consist of a single statement listing the new law or the change to existing law that is requested.

Examples

One of the most common questions is, "Should I submit a resolution or a legislative position?" There is no single answer to this question - it depends on the issue and on what you hope to accomplish. A resolution can be submitted on virtually any topic that meets the criteria listed above, while a legislative position is usually reserved for issues that require a new law or changes to existing law. Many topics can be covered by either a resolution or a legislative position; a resolution says, "We believe something **should** happen..." while a legislative position says, "We want a law **requiring** something to happen..."

As an example, consider the National PTA resolution passed in 1983 concerning guidance counseling services in schools. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, Students in school are vulnerable to the pressures and problems of the society in which they are nurtured; and

Whereas, Families need information, assistance, and support in raising children in a rapidly changing society; and

Whereas, The failure to identify learning problems and difficulties encountered by young children may result in problems of greater magnitude and severity as they mature; and

Whereas, the responsibility for providing appropriate educational programs, counseling, and coordinating services lies with state and local agencies; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the National PTA encourage state PTAs/PTSAs to support the development of a comprehensive guidance counseling plan which provides services to all children; and be it further

Resolved, That the National PTA encourages state and local PTAs/PTSAs to seek funding for implementation of comprehensive guidance counseling services.

In response to this resolution, Texas PTA developed the following legislative position, currently listed as position II-R-93.

PTA supports requiring a full-time counselor for every school or cooperative of schools with 500 or more students, whether or not compensatory funds are available.

The rationale statement and other supporting documentation would be roughly the same for either the resolution or the legislative position. Note that, while the legislative position text is shorter, it is more specific and is written so that it can be applied to specific legislation and funding programs.

Forwarding Resolutions to National PTA

A Nevada PTA Resolution may cover an issue of national scope and therefore be appropriate for consideration by a National PTA convention. Resolutions passed by a Nevada PTA convention will be forwarded to the National PTA only if the resolution includes the clause "*Be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA.*"

There are very specific requirements that a resolution must meet in order to be considered by the National PTA. Please refer to the *National PTA Handbook* for additional information.