

WHERE WE STAND

WISCONSIN PTA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2022



To be used in conjunction with the "Resolutions & Position" Listing. View the listing online at: www.wisconsinpta.org

WHAT IS IT

The Wisconsin PTA Legislative Program is a general outline and declaration of what the members of the Wisconsin PTA believe about education, child health and welfare and the community.

The Legislative Program complies and articulates as official policy of the Wisconsin PTA such historic and established resolutions deemed to have legislative intent.

REASON FOR

The reason for this document is primarily, though not exclusively, to serve the functions of historic preservation and official reference for leaders and members.

Both the state and national legislative programs enable the respective committees to speak with authority, but vest the responsibility for developing policy in the local membership, who should study the program and send representatives to the state convention to be part of the action that determines the legislative directions of the Wisconsin PTA.

HOW TO USE

The State Legislative Chairman shall not use this document as the authority to support or oppose legislation. The Chairman must refer to the specific resolution addressing the subject of the legislation for his/her authority. Members can use this document for general information and also refer to the specific resolution. Resolution and information can be found in the Resolution & Positions booklet.

HOW FORMULATED

Legislative policies and positions are formulated through resolutions adopted at the annual Wisconsin PTA Convention. All resolutions with legislative intent shall be submitted to the Legislative Program Committee by the delegate assembly for inclusion into the Legislative Program.

In the event that items within the document are found to be in conflict with each other, the more recent shall take precedent. Such conflicts shall be resolved at the earliest opportunity consistent with the bylaws.

HOW TO CHANGE

The intent of items within the Legislative Program shall not be changed, though items may be added and/or deleted, though not amended, as shall be provided by the bylaws.

NEW POLICY may be included in the Legislative Program ONLY through resolutions passed by the delegate assembly at the annual Wisconsin PTA Convention.

The EXISTING LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM may be amended ONLY by new resolutions passed by the delegate body in convention. The new resolutions shall take precedent over existing policy. However, items in the Legislative Program may be deleted by action of the delegate assembly at the annual Wisconsin PTA Convention.

1. Local units and councils may submit recommendations to delete, with rationale to the State Legislative Program Committee prior to convention for consideration by the delegate assembly.
2. The State Legislative Program Committee may present recommendations to delete with rationale for consideration by the delegate assembly.

EDUCATION

BASIC POLICY: The Wisconsin PTA will recommend, initiate, and support legislation and appropriations for public schools that will ensure all children and youth in Wisconsin a high quality education. The Wisconsin PTA believes that quality education for children is directly related to the effectiveness and efficiency of school personnel. The Wisconsin PTA recognizes no educational system can be of the highest quality without support, involvement, and cooperation of parents and the community.

I. FINANCE - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. The financial health of the school and the state is dependent upon electorate support of adequate state and local tax sources and responsible accountability by public officials. (70-1, 81-11)
- B. Methods of financing must provide for:
 - 1. New programs and services that are established by the state or federal legislatures, or other government agencies which increase costs to the local boards of education or the State Department of Public Instruction. (75-14)
 - 2. Equal education opportunity for all students in all public schools in Wisconsin. (81-11)
 - 3. Reasonable class size standards for all grade levels. (92-4)
- C. All state and federal appropriations should be used for publicly controlled, tax-supported schools only. (70-1, 72-5)
 - 1. Oppose any tax credit or income tax deductions for tuition paid to non-public elementary, secondary or higher education schools. (78-6)
- D. The Wisconsin PTA urges that the State Department of Public Instruction be provided with financial resources and encouragement to exercise the authority that will enable it to fulfill its responsibilities. (81-11)
- E. Encourage quality education which can be assured only through adequate financing and local control of funds. (72-4, 92-5)
- F. Additional cost to school districts incurred in providing selective transportation to private school pupils shall be paid by the private school pupil. (76-7)
- G. Urge the Wisconsin legislature to continue to support the CESA organizations.(75-12)
- H. The WCPT urge the Wisconsin Legislature to adopt a one (1) cent additional sales tax by constitutional amendment to be earmarked to supplement school property tax relief and maintaining the current exemptions. (87-6)
- I. The WCPT and its affiliates urge the Legislature to revise the schedule of aid payments to all public schools, therefore eliminating the need for many school districts to borrow funds to meet normal operating costs. (87-8)
- J. The WCPT and its affiliates are opposed to the use of lottery and any other gaming proceeds for public school aids. (87-13)
- K. The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) urge the legislature to continue to seek means of property tax relief which leave the control of public schools in the hands of local school districts. (89-9)
- L. The WCPT encourages the maintenance of the Common School Fund as it was created in Article X, Section 2 of the State Constitution and support amending Section H of Wisconsin State Statute 121.02 as follows: School districts shall provide evidence that expenditure for media center materials at least meet or exceed the amount of common school fund money received. (91-1)
- M. WCPT urge its affiliates to contact the Governor and legislators urging opposition to budgeting proposals which reduce or limit current funding levels for all child-related programs in schools and urging appropriate funding for all child-related programs. (91-5)
- N. WCPT supports equalization of the general school aid formula by incorporating a poverty-weighting factor. (92-3)
- O. WCPT urges its affiliates to contact the Governor of Wisconsin and its Legislators urging opposition to budget proposals which will reduce or limit increases in current funding levels for public education or child-related programs and authorization of appropriate funding for child-related programs so as to ensure the continuation of high quality public education in the State of Wisconsin. (96-1)
- P. WCPT urges all local PTA/PTSA members to contact their legislators to express concern over gross commercialization, marketing, and advertising contracts that directly affect the students of Wisconsin. (98-4)
- Q. WCPT opposes inequitable distribution of tax dollars for education that results in major differences in educational opportunities for the children and youth of Wisconsin. (98-3)

- R. WCPT urges all its affiliates to contact the Governor of Wisconsin and their legislators to urge them to reform the current system of state funding of education to ensure fair distribution of revenue for the education of all children and youth in Wisconsin. (98-3) (02-4)
- S. Wisconsin PTA support legislation mandating that all educational institutions which receive public funding must ensure that all students have equal opportunity without regard to sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, learning disability or disorder. (99-2)
- T. Wisconsin PTA support legislation mandating that all educational institutions receiving public taxpayer provided funds obey Wisconsin Open Meetings and Records Law, hire certified staff, meet state curriculum standards, comply with WI state assessment systems, and publicly release data such as, but not limited to, test scores, attendance figures, and suspension and drop-out rates. (99-2)
- U. Wisconsin PTA encourages and supports legislative efforts to increase the amount of revenue available to schools and/or to eliminate revenue caps imposed upon schools. (99-5)
- V. Wisconsin PTA, local units & councils urge the legislature to make additional monies available outside of the revenue caps for school district to provide comprehensive programs for safe schools. (E-I-V)
- W. Wisconsin PTA encourages and supports legislative efforts to assure that all mandated educational programs are fully funded and that the Wisconsin PTA opposes any action that would result in reduced or insufficient funding for established or new mandated educational programs. (02-3, 09-1)
- X. That members of the Wisconsin PTA contact the Governor and members of the Legislature to oppose un-funded and underfunded mandated educational initiatives, policies and programs. (02-3)
- Y. Wisconsin PTA, through its members, work for the establishment and implementation of a school funding system based on the needs of student, and encourages its members to contact the governor and other elected officials to advocate for a system based on opportunity-to-learn standards so that every school in Wisconsin can provide the resources needed for all students. (02-3)
- Z. Wisconsin PTA encourages and supports legislation that alleviates undue financial hardship to districts whose students choose to attend or enroll in a virtual school chartered by another district or state. (03-1)
- AA. That Wisconsin PTA encourages State Legislators to vote against constitutional amendments that would further limit educational funding and therefore lead to a decline in educational quality. (06-2)
- BB. Wisconsin PTA encourages additional categorical funding that would accommodate the unique needs of all English Language Learner students. (06-3)

II. EDUCATION PROGRAM - It is the Wisconsin PTA position to encourage, support and emphasize local initiative and control to exceed state minimum academic standards.

- A. A broad educational program is necessary which includes:
 - 1. Strong emphasis on basic subjects as a priority. (77-4)
 - 2. That educational opportunities be provided in public schools to enable the development of maximum capacities of every child including those with physical, mental, emotional disabilities and learning disabilities, including programs for the potential dropout. (72-8, 73-4, 73-5, 70-5)
 - 3. Up-to-date textbooks and instructional materials which portray accurately the contributions of both women and men of all racial, ethnic, regional and occupational groups. (73-1, 75-7, 75-8)
 - 4. Library and instructional media facilities, materials and service in public elementary and secondary schools that meet or exceed state standards. (69-5, 70-6)
 - 5. Improvement and extension of home, school, and community communications. (75-2, 69-4, 70-7)
 - 6. Basic curriculum that teaches our American political, economic, and social system and helps students to understand and appreciate the responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship. (73-4, 69-8, 71-1)
 - 7. Flexibility in programming and scheduling that provide alternative kinds of education for both elementary and secondary students. (76-4, 77-3)
 - 8. Health education and arts education:
 - a. Comprehensive school health education programs should include but not be limited to CPR training at secondary level, communicable disease control,

environmental health, family life and sex education, mental health, nutrition, high blood pressure screening, substance abuse, and be geared to growth and needs at all grade levels. (81-4, 71-2, 69-10, 75-15, 79-3, 72-11, 75-9, 79-10, 70-8)

- b. Encouragement for school districts to integrate the arts into elementary and secondary school curriculum. (80-1)
- 9. That opportunities for career education be provided in the elementary and secondary schools, and made available to post-high school level. (72-7, 70-4)
- 10. That consumer education be considered an integral part of all school curriculum starting at the first-grade level. (72-9)
- 11. Work to eliminate racial, ethnic, and socio-economic segregation in the public schools for greater understanding and equal educational opportunities for all children. (69-8, 74-5, 76-5, 85-6)
- 12. Support the traditional summer vacation. (77-2)
- 13. School opportunities offered to potential dropout youth and support for types of work-school experience that will meet their needs. (70-5)
- 14. Urge colleges, universities and technical schools to provide high quality educational programs. (70-4)
- 15. Support articulation and cooperation between VTEA and local school districts. (82-4)
- B. It is the responsibility of the State Department of Public Instruction to provide initiative and strong leadership in developing, maintaining, and enforcing high standards for all education programs in Wisconsin and, through research and planning, to develop new programs where needed. (70-2)
- C. Pursue with other interested groups enactment of a process for defining "school" truancy, transportation and other necessary purposes. (81-7)
- D. Seek legislation allocating federal and state funding to provide tutorial assistance to students in need regardless of financial need. (89-5)
- E. Support expansion of the school year to accommodate added curriculum demands with intent to assure quality education and that it be equitably funded by the state. (90-4)
- F. WCPT inform parents about the availability of pornography on the computer superhighway and work with the FCC and legislators to establish guidelines regulating access. (95-4)
- G. Wisconsin PTA urges the Department of Public Instruction to support education curriculum to include training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). (03-3)

III. CONTROL OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Action must be initiated to correct conflicts in the statutes relative to school attendance, vocational opportunities, the Children's Code and enforcement of the same. (79-2)
- B. Local boards of education must develop procedures for effectively and continually communicating with their citizens regarding local, state, and federal financial, educational, and procedural concerns. (81-2)
- C. Continue to guard against all violations of the purpose of separation of church and state including imposed school prayer. (74-1, 74-2)
- D. Encourage the development of written school board policies including written policy for selection of materials and for the reconsideration of challenged material, and offer PTA assistance in such efforts, while still believing that the determination of school policy rests finally with the duly elected board. (69-7, 83-7)
- E. WCPT oppose State mandated textbook selection. (86-4)
- F. WCPT oppose any legislation which would provide textbooks purchased with state funds to non-public schools. (89-6)
- G. WCPT reject the Governor's "parental choice proposal" or any other proposal which would fail to improve the public educational system for all Wisconsin children. (89-11)
- H. WCPT support school board policies or state legislation that ensure that School/Site Based Management includes parent representation and parent organization (PTA) representation. (91-3)
- I. WCPT oppose "schools for profit" operated with the use of public tax dollars and support our current publicly funded, publicly operated school system. (94-3)
- J. WCPT supports maintenance of independently elected State Superintendent to head the Department of Public Instruction. (95-1)
- K. WCPT supports restoring local control of school district budgets so that levels of educational spending are determined by the needs of the local community. (98-3, 06-2)

- L. Wisconsin PTA supports legislation that will create guidelines, objectives, and accountability standards for Virtual Schools in Wisconsin including equal accessibility for all students regardless of socioeconomic, disability, or other status, and in compliance with state and federal requirements. (03-1)
- M. That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports charter schools being operated only under proven and qualified educational authorities. (07-2)
- N. That WCPT encourages legislators to create rules and regulations that would hold charter schools publicly accountable for all public funding that it receives and would create uniform minimal accountability standards for measured academic achievement (07-2)
- O. That Wisconsin PTA urges all school districts to close the achievement gap by providing highly qualified teachers, rigorous curriculum, professional development for educators, principals and parents (07-3)

IV. SCHOOL PERSONNEL - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Boards of Education should have the authority to require both certified and non-certified personnel to participate in in-service programs. (75-4)
- B. When present negotiation procedures tend to adversely affect our children, to support constructive efforts to improve staff negotiating procedures which include teachers, custodians, secretarial, etc., and to urge all school districts to have contracts and agreements with all school employees before school opens in the fall. (70-5)
- C. Urge local boards of education to recognize the value of experience and advanced training in teacher candidates and actively support the hiring of the most highly qualified teachers available. (73-11)
- D. Support legislation that would allow for early retirement for public school educators without economic penalty to these educators. (81-6, 75-11)
- E. Encourage an awareness of discrimination on the basis of sex in the public school systems and to work to put an end to such discrimination. (72-13)
- F. WCPT support background checks on teachers for the issuing or renewal of a license or permit. (94-2)
- G. WCPT support maintenance of licensing standards for school administrators. (94-5)
- H. Holders of temporary teacher certification are required to complete necessary training for regular certification. (96-3)
- I. Holders of "Alternative Certification" be held to the same standards as holders of "Regular Certification". (96-3)
- J. Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for the implementation of educational opportunities for teacher candidates to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. (02-1)
- K. WCPT supports legislation that would allow teachers to take tax deductions for items purchased for classroom use. (08-1)

V. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Action must be initiated to correct conflicts in the statutes relative to school attendance, vocational opportunities, the Children's Code and enforcement of the same. (79-2)
- B. That in all school districts, the WCPT support:
 - 1. Legislation permitting police officers in respective school districts to approach suspected truants for the sole purpose of returning the truant to the school, parent, or guardian;
 - 2. Efforts to obtain federal, state, or local funding to replicate or expand existing programs likely to be successful in restoring student interest in education and their own futures. (85-5)
- C. WCPT encourage school authorities to give favorable consideration to the establishment of in-school suspensions for students. (89-4)

VI. DISRUPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS - It is the Wisconsin PTA position:

- A. There should be no disruption of the educational process by any segment of the community and penalties must be imposed to discourage such disruption. (74-14)
- B. In order to prevent disruptions, boards of education should establish policies and procedures that define the lines of communication among staff, students, PTA and the community. (74-14)

- C. To support legislation which would enable parents, teachers, school boards and administrators to develop and enforce public school policies which would provide quality education for all students. (88-2)
- D. That any state mandated program relating to student removal from an educational setting be accompanied by a provision for adequate funding. (98-2)

VII. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - It is the Wisconsin PTA position to support and work for changes in the law that would:

- A. Allow that a joint statement of impasse, signed by both sides, be sufficient proof to start the mediation/arbitration process. (79-1)
- B. Require WERC to assign more mediators/arbitrators so that the time involved in assigning same be reduced. (79-1)
- C. Require that the mediator/arbitrator must start arbitration hearing within 30 days after assignment. (79-1)
- D. Require that within 60 days after hearing, the arbitrator must rule on the matter before him/her. (79-1)
- E. Require that PTA representatives be included as observers in the negotiating process. (76-6)

VIII. STUDENT PERFORMANCE - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Student files should be open to parents or those in parental relationship and to students upon receipt of written permission from the parent so that all parties involved can have a clear understanding of the information contained in the files. (73-8, 74-9)
- B. Testing should be used as a diagnostic tool to determine whether there is a degree of consistency between a student's capacity to perform and his/her performance: to identify the reasons for these inconsistencies and to take measures to correct them. (76-2)
- C. Sufficient time must be provided during the school year for Parent/Teacher Conferences. (76-3)
- D. Improvement of all pupil personnel services to students and their parents at all levels in public schools to include guidance and counseling. (70-3)
- E. Parents should be involved in the development and implementation of performance based assessment procedures. (96-4)
- F. Content and performance standards should be developed in Wisconsin with the input of parents, community and educators. (97-1)

IX. HOME SCHOOL INSTRUCTION - It is the WCPT position to support and urge legislation that would:

- A. Establish requirements for home schools comparable to existing public school educational mandates. (87-4)
- B. Require home schools continue to only be for children of the parent(s)/guardian(s) operating the home schools. (87-4)
- C. Require supervision of home schools by the public school district superintendent/administrator based upon specific guidelines established by the Superintendent of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (87-4)
- D. Require that all children enrolled in home schools complete similar standardized achievement test(s) on the same testing schedule required by all public school children within the school district in which the home school is located. (87-4)

HEALTH AND WELFARE

BASIC POLICY: The Wisconsin PTA will support legislation and appropriations, which safeguard and/or relate to the health, safety, and welfare of children and youth. Support should be given for improvement of community programs and facilities which provide maximum protection from emotional and physical hazards for children and youth which strengthen home and family life.

I. EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND HEALTH SERVICES - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Education, research and health services which improve the mental and physical health of the family should emphasize prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation within the community whenever possible. (70-10, 70-8)
This includes:
 - 1. Programs and facilities that will strengthen parent/child relationships including education for effective parenthood.(75-3)
 - 2. Support of stronger legislation and stronger enforcement of laws dealing with child abuse, domestic violence and abuse, and other child related crimes. (75-15, 79-12)
- B. Opposing any legislation involving the right of a minor to receive counseling, medication or treatment without the parents consent except in the case of medical emergencies. (80-2)
- C. Education and dissemination of information concerning reducing TV violence and improving the overall quality of TV programming and up-grading the moral standards of the mass media. (77-5, 69-14, 92-2)
- D. Urges the Wisconsin Gaming Commission, the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislators to encourage stricter enforcement of lottery advertising statutes, especially as they relate to the influence on children. (93-5)
- E. WCPT encourage school districts to provide educators with the skills and funds they need to provide our children with the knowledge and skills they need to avoid infection with human immunodeficiency virus. (95-6)
- F. WCPT develop a plan that supplies on going support for letter and telephone campaigns directed at the parties involved in the television industry and their sponsors; plan to include but not limited to compilation and updating of telephone and address lists. (96-2)
- G. That WCPT advocate for legislation that would assure school districts can meet the recommended student to nurse ratio by providing the necessary funding. (06-7)

II. LEGISLATION FOR CHILDREN - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Strive for an increased understanding by the general public of the juvenile court and its responsibilities. (69-15)
- B. Oppose permitting the news media to publish the names of delinquent minors and their parents or guardians. (81-8)
- C. When a child is found to be in need of preventative or rehabilitative programs or medical treatment, the parents or legal guardian must be notified by the court/school/agency. (80-2)
- D. Work for legislation to make the selling of drug paraphernalia illegal in the State of Wisconsin and oppose the legalization of marijuana. (78-7), (79-11)
- E. Support legislation establishing financial penalties for adults who knowingly permit on their premises the illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors (83-3)
- F. Oppose and seek revision of child labor law(s) that hinder a child from having the proper time for education, healthful development and recreation; engage in work that is too hazardous for children; or exploit children by allowing sub minimum wages. (83-6)
- G. WCPT urges recognition and enforcement of the legal drinking age of 21 for residents of other states when these individuals are in Wisconsin. (84-2)
- H. Legislators create laws to protect our children from exploitation in the production and exposure to pornographic materials and to seek the enactment and enforcement of an obscenity statute for Wisconsin. (86-1, 88-1)
- I. The WCPT and its affiliates urge Legislators to amend Wisconsin Act 337 requiring municipalities and cities to adopt a local ordinance before class B establishments could be utilized for teenage social activities. (87-2)
- J. The WCPT and its affiliates urge Wisconsin State Legislators to support legislation, which would make it illegal for minors under 18 to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products and urge city governments to prohibit retailers from selling all tobacco products to minors. (87-3)
- K. The WCPT urges the Legislators to enact legislation creating stiffer penalties for drug pushers. (87-10)

- L. The WCPT and all its affiliates urge the Legislature to create the necessary laws to ensure mandatory vision and hearing screening for students enrolled in public schools in grades K, 3, 6, 9, 12. (87-11)
- M. The WCPT seeks legislation to ban corporal punishment in public schools. (88-3)
- N. The WCPT seeks a state law, through lobbying, that would require full visible disclosure of lyrics for publications with sales. (89-1)
- O. The WCPT supports passage of comprehensive childhood lead poisoning prevention and periodic medical screening of children less than 7 years of age to detect lead poisoning. (93-3)
- P. THE WCPT supports existing legislation and urge stricter child labor standards than the legislation adopted in Wisconsin in 1991. (93-4)
- Q. WCPT support efforts to develop ratings or other appropriate information systems to inform parents and consumers about the content of video games. (94-1)
- R. WCPT re-emphasizes support and commitment to the efforts of schools to educate Wisconsin youth about AIDS and to work with the state legislature to review, define and strengthen current statutes that govern the distribution of harmful materials to minors as defined in the Wisconsin State Statutes 948.11. (94-4)
- S. WCPT inform parents about the availability of pornography on the computer superhighway and work with the FCC and legislators to establish guidelines regulating access. (95-4)
- T. WCPT educate parents, communities, and the legislature, about the concerns relating to the proximity of industry and other pollutants to Wisconsin schools. (95-5)
- U Wisconsin PTA continues to advocate for the health and safety of our children by addressing the above concerns {indoor air quality} and by strongly encouraging our state officials to adopt and enforce laws defining minimum indoor air quality standards which individual schools must meet or exceed. (99-1)
- V. Wisconsin PTA continues to advocate for the health and safety of our children by addressing the above concerns {use of pesticides in and around schools} and strongly encouraging their elected officials to pass laws mandating that integrated Pest Management policies be adopted and implemented by school districts statewide. (99-4)
- W. Wisconsin PTA local units & councils urge the legislature to revise laws and regulations that apply to social services in order to provide seamless, multi-agency services for children & youth; (00-2)
- X. Wisconsin PTA opposes efforts to use the tobacco prevention endowment funds for purposes other than those originally intended and supports increased public awareness of the tobacco prevention endowment and purpose of those dollars. (02-05)
- Y. Wisconsin PTA supports increasing the Wisconsin excise tax on cigarettes, and using money raised by this excise tax to assure that Wisconsin has a comprehensive program to reduce tobacco use that follows and is funded within the Centers for Disease Control best practice guidelines and fund other state programs that will advance the health, education, and general welfare of Wisconsin youth and adults and will inform local unit and council members and the general public as well as the Governor and members of the Legislature about this position. (02-6)

III. HEALTH AND NUTRITION - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. Programs must be developed in cooperation with federal, state, and local departments of health and social services that include:
 - 1. Enforcement of legislation to provide assistance in education and health efforts for all critical health issues including but not limited to venereal disease, drug, abuse, and alcoholism. (69-12, 72-11)
 - 2. Education and dissemination of nutrition information. (79-10)
 - a. support the inclusion of local food purchase policies in respective school Wellness Plans and their purchase, when practicable, of locally-produced fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats for use in school meals and snack programs (08-2)
 - 3. Education and dissemination of information concerning the importance of early and complete immunization of children and youth against preventable diseases. (72-11)
 - 4. Education and dissemination of information concerning child restraint systems in automobiles. (82-5, 83-7)
 - 5. Education and dissemination of information concerning the hazards of smoking materials. (69-11, 75-16) (02-5)
 - 6. Education and dissemination of information concerning the need for statewide testing to detect abnormalities in new born infants including but not limited to hypothyroidism and maple syrup urine disease. (77-1)

7. Education and dissemination of information concerning the dangers of aerosol cans. (80-4)
 8. Seek and support legislation which will require testing for rubella immunity in women who apply for marriage licenses in the State of Wisconsin. (81-9)
 9. WCPT work with law enforcement to forbid the sale of smokeless tobacco products to children in the State of Wisconsin. (86-3)
 10. Education and dissemination about labeling on energy drinks and dangers and effects of energy drinks
- B. Support the school lunch programs and actively oppose federal budget cuts in this area. (81-10)

IV. SAFETY LAWS - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. There must be statewide and local safety codes, and enforcement of these codes, as they apply to children and youth in the operation of vehicles, bicycles, skateboards, mini-bikes, skis, motorcycles, sleds, roller skates, and toboggans. (70-9, 78-2, 83-3)
- B. Encourage development of safety measures for public amusement areas, encourage education of children in the dangers of fireworks and participation in water-sports, and provision of adequate sanitary facilities. (67, 83-3)
- C. There should be strict enforcement of present laws regarding the elimination of hazards in the school and its surrounding environment including adequate crossing guards. (72-12, 73-12, 75-17, 69-9)
- D. There should be statewide safety regulations developed for use when children and youth are transported to school by public and private systems including adequate training and qualifications for school bus drivers and regulations for passenger load capacity on municipal buses. (69-9, 72-12, 73-12, 79-6, 79-14, 83-1)
- E. Seek legislation to prohibit right turn on red in all school zones when children are present. (86-2)
- F. The WCPT support and urge state legislators to vote for Safety Belt Law requiring all persons in Wisconsin to "buckle up" while operating or riding in any motor vehicle equipped with seat belts and that District, Council, and local unit leaders be encouraged to contact their respective state legislators and urge immediate action be taken on mandatory seat belt usage. (86-5)
- G. The WCPT and its affiliates work to develop legislation that would require the development of outside alarm systems and outside emergency procedures for the protection of all school children and staff in Wisconsin. (87-5)
- H. The WCPT encourage state legislators to enact legislation which would decrease the number of ATV-related deaths and injuries to children under 16, by prohibiting them from being ATV operators without completion of an approved ATV safety course and parental or guardian consent. (90-1)
- I. The WCPT urge the State of Wisconsin to pass a law mandating that when transporting children, all school buses use flashing lights when stopping to board or disembark children at all times during the calendar year. (90-3)
- J. The WCPT support a safety code for our schools which would mandate that smoke detectors be installed on all floor levels of school buildings in appropriate places where the threat of fire is the greatest and that the smoke detectors be installed to an electrical system, in addition to being battery operated. The WCPT support legislation to provide adequate state funding to school districts for implementation of appropriate smoke detector installation in all schools. (90-5)
- K. WCPT support legislation that provides education for children, youth and adults in firearm and ammunitions safety, proper storage, the use of safety related technological modifications and support the American Academy of Pediatrics in its effort to educate children and adults about the dangers of firearms. (91-4)
- L. WCPT increase public awareness to the potential pornographic nature of 1-900, 1-976 or additional assigned telephone numbers and work with legislators and other elected officials to regulate access to these numbers by our youth. (95-3)
- M. The WCPT support the appropriate use of child restraint systems. (97-2)
- N. WCPT and its affiliates encourage legislation requiring traffic studies be performed prior to the opening of any school. (98-1)
- O. Wisconsin PTA encourages its local units to seek implementation of bicycle safety laws with local and state political leaders. (99-3)
- P. Wisconsin PTA encourages local units & councils to work with local school boards, government & law enforcement agencies to establish comprehensive policies and/or ordinances for notification of parents/guardians when sex offenders are released in local communities to live and/or work. (00-1)

- Q. Wisconsin PTA encourages legislation that would acknowledge that a driver's first responsibility is the safe operation of the vehicle and that the best practice is to not use electronic devices including cell phones while driving. (03-2)
- R. Wisconsin PTA encourages legislation that would require drivers to concentrate on safe and defensive driving, not placing or receiving phone calls, delivery of faxes, using computers, navigational systems, or other distracting influences. (03-2)
- S. Wisconsin PTA encourages legislation that prohibits all non-emergency use of electronic devices including cell phones by all drivers, especially by teenage drivers during their graduated licensing period. (03-2)
- T. Wisconsin PTA supports legislation that would require producers and providers of electronic devices and services to undertake substantial educational campaigns that would inform the public of the safe operation of electronic devices emphasizing both the risks and the benefits. (03-2)
- U. That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) re-emphasize its commitment to the safety and well-being of the children and youth of Wisconsin by opposing further legislation that would undermine the concealed weapons laws in effect since 1874, in whole or in part. (04-3)
- V. Wisconsin PTA encourages election and community officials to find polling places that are not located in schools to ensure safety to students and staff. (11-1)

V. NATURAL RESOURCES - It is the Wisconsin PTA position that:

- A. All citizens be urged to conserve energy by every means possible and to work towards the enhancement of our human living space. (74-11, 79-4 & 7, 71-3, 09-2)
- B. To questions such practices as the use of ecologically-damaging substances and processes. (75-9)

COMMUNITY

BASIC POLICY: Community concerns should be worked on cooperatively by local boards of education, local governments, community agencies and citizens.

- I. The schools basic responsibility is the academic education of children. The utilization of school buildings and grounds for community use should be encouraged so long as that use does not negatively impinge upon the education program. (78-4)
- II. Support local citizen involvement in the education, health and welfare of children and youth. (76-1)
 - A. It is the responsibility of local PTA's and councils to attend local government meetings and to disseminate school and/or child oriented information to its own membership and the community (69-6, 76-1)
 - B. Increase efforts for more effective communication and cooperation between all parties involved in the decision-making process in our public schools in educating our children and youth. (75-2, 69-6)
 - C. Advocate for the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles, in each school and within the Department of Public Instruction. (02-1)
 - D. Advocate for legislation that will support a comprehensive parent involvement policy in the State of Wisconsin and make resources available to support the policy. (02-1)
- III. Oppose a state lottery and legalized gambling of any form in the State of Wisconsin for any purpose whatsoever. (79-8)
- IV. Urge the Wisconsin legislature to make decisions designated to honor, support and strengthen the American family. (83-1)
- V. It is the position of the WCPT that PTAs be exempt from collecting and paying state sales tax. (85-4)
- VI. Oppose measured local telephone service. (80-3)