



**WISCONSIN CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
(WI PTA)**

Resolutions

Complete Listing: Whereas & Resolves

Last updated 10/18/2019

GUIDE TO USING THE WCPT RESOLUTIONS BOOK

CURRENT RESOLUTIONS are contained in pages of this book. These resolutions were adopted at WCPT (Wisconsin Congress of Parent and Teachers) conventions; they represent continuing concerns of the Wisconsin PTA and should be considered as statements of position.

In many cases the “Whereas” clauses of these resolutions may be out of date and inappropriate to today’s situation. Therefore, only the resolved clauses should be considered as statements of position.

Numbers listed are the YEAR the resolution was passed and the NUMBER of the resolution. i.e.: 89-9 (9th of 11 resolutions voted on in 1989)

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73-1 CURRICULUM

Resolution on textbooks and other instructional material credibility.

- Whereas,** PTA is totally committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all children and
- Whereas,** many textbooks currently in use have been found to be inaccurate in their portrayal of the contributions of women in the history of humankind and in their portrayal of the cultural and socio-economic diversity present in the United States and
- Whereas,** the omission or stereotyping of various ethnic, regional and occupational groups in textbooks and in other materials may convey a false impression on the potential of such groups, be it resolved:
- Resolved:** that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers at all organizational levels urge the proper authorities to adopt such textbooks, library books and other instructional materials which portray accurately the contributions of both women and men of all racial, ethnic, regional and occupational groups.

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Whereas, the initial investment to provide vocational/technical training is costly but vital to Wisconsin’s economic development; and

Whereas, high schools are still generally being built to provide less Vocational/ Technical and practical education for individual students; and

Whereas, the general educational system in Wisconsin receives more philosophical support than vocational/technical programs; and

Whereas, there appears to be more professionally qualified individuals than there are professional jobs and more para-professionals and vocational/technical jobs than there are trained for these jobs; now therefore be it resolved,

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA;

1. Encourage parents, educators, and the general public to give proper and equal recognition and acceptance to vocational/technical education through involvement in conference and education programs.
2. Be a leader in encouraging that more curricula be vocational/technical oriented and the “general education” subject matter be directed to that orientation according to student interests so that instruction relates to the realities of life.
3. Assure that every young person completing our school system at grade twelve be ready to enter higher education or to enter useful and rewarding employment.
4. Support efforts to gain additional funds and give priority consideration to the improvement and expansion of vocational/technical education in the public high schools so that all students will have an opportunity for an occupational education, if desired.
5. Encourage business and industrial representatives to support vocational/ technical education by providing scholarships to post-secondary institutions in these areas to high school students.

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73-3 HEAD START AND/OR HOME START PROGRAMS

- Whereas, “Head Start” and “Home Start” educational programs have become an integral part of the education of four-year-old children from educational disadvantaged areas of the state; and
- Whereas, the National PTA and other educational organizations recognize the “Head Start” and/or “Home Start” are functional and proven programs; and
- Whereas, “Head Start” and/or “Home Start” programs follow guidelines for parent participation which PTA believes crucial to the success of the program; i.e. input into the program involvement of the parent in the classroom as paid employees, volunteers, and/or observers; staff visits to the home for discussion of parent contribution to child development; and parent education programs which parents have helped to organize,
- Now therefore be it
- Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA endorse the concept of continuing the voluntary, Federally funded “Head Start” and/or “Home Start” programs, and that PTA’s work for the expansion of voluntary “Head Start” and/or “Home Start” programs, funded through local funds, for the benefit of all four-year-old children.

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73-4 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

- Whereas, within the past two years the realization that the power of the court to adjudicate inequities regarding the education of children with exceptional needs has become widely recognized; and
- Whereas, the achievement of full educational opportunities for children with exceptional need lies in the development of a strong legal foundation, and
- Whereas, the introduction and passage of new state and Federal legislation and the growing establishment by the Federal courts that the right to an education and the right to treatment for children with exceptional needs is “unalienable”, and
- Whereas, the availability of increased funds, and the increased attention to the delivery of services for the education of children with exceptional needs has been effected and recognized by public policy makers, and
- Whereas, these activities and events are increasingly reshaping the face of special Education. Now therefore be it
- Resolved: For children with exceptional needs:
1. The PTA work to influence public opinion through the use of all media to support, strengthen and improve services for children with exceptional needs.
 2. The PTA work to influence school boards to support special education programming and services for children with exceptional needs who are inadequately provided for.
 3. The PTA work to influence legislators to pass state and Federal laws

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73-5 CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Specific Learning Disabilities child is a crisis and contributes a major share of problem that exists in schools today. As research continues it is now being projected that the 2% incident figures for Specific Learning Disabilities is low. Once Specific Learning Disabilities is recognized by the general public and recognized by educators and teachers the incident figures for Specific Learning Disabilities will average 11% of any given school population.

Whereas, the unmet needs of the SLD (Specific Learning Disabilities) child have become critical and

Whereas, the identification of the SLD child, because of the neurological impairment is often so subtle or deceptive that his disability is one of the most difficult to diagnose, and

Whereas, the discrepancy between the number of children presently being tested and served, and the number of children with specific learning disabilities is partly due to the lack of understanding of this type of disability, and

Whereas, principals, teachers and parents frequently do not recognize certain learning or behavior problem as manifestations of SLD, and

Whereas, some school systems feel that it is hopeless to refer the child because there are not enough classrooms available, and

Whereas, getting SLD teachers is a major problem for SLD programs, as this often hinges on the availability of qualified teacher;

Now therefore be it

Resolved:

- That the Wisconsin PTA promote a program of public awareness and understanding of Specific Learning Disabilities throughout the state.
- That the PTA should devote a portion of its time to developing the concept of the learning disabilities child as a separate entity within the sphere of children with exceptional needs.
- That PTA work to help public schools start and expand learning disabilities programs throughout the state as only public systems can adequately finance the educational needs of the growing number of Specific Learning Disabilities children.

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73-6 COMMUNITY CENTERED APPROACH TO IMMUNIZATIONS

- Whereas, immunizations are not only effective but also an economical means of preventing the incidence of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, mumps, rubella, measles and certain other infectious diseases which can cause discomfort, disabilities and death, and
- Whereas, the immunity level of a community must be maintained in order to ensure that disease outbreaks are prevented, and
- Whereas, Wisconsin communities do not have consistently high levels of protections against diseases for which there are available primary preventive antigens, and the age group with highest risk but with the lowest level of protection is the pre-school population, and
- Whereas, it is recognized that the adoption of positive health practices may be affected by health education, parental interest, public commitment and the availability, accessibility and acceptability of health services; therefore be it
- Resolved, that a statewide campaign be initiated to create a favorable atmosphere of programs to educate parents to the availability of immunization programs, to protect individuals of all ages.

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73-7 SCHOOL NURSES

Today almost all children attend school during a substantial portion of their waking hours. It is recognized that their attainment of maximum educational achievement is dependent on optimum health. Yet many children are not receiving continuing, comprehensive health care. Other are physically or mentally handicapped. Some have chronic health problems which have not been recognized. Many are on medication prescribed by their physicians. All can and do have accidents which cause minor to major injuries.

Both the apparently well and those with health problems require health services from time to time. While teacher, administrator, and other school staff can and do provide many of the everyday kinds of care like first aid and some health counseling, they have neither the skills nor the time to meet the health needs of all the children during the school day. Those best qualified to provide the necessary health services to meet the needs of all the children are school nurses because they;

- A. Have the knowledge and skills to work with parents and supplement their efforts in safeguarding and promoting the health of all children.
- B. Are the primary health contact for the child and the ones who represent total health interests on the school staff.
- C. can serve as the liaison with the health professional outside of the school including physicians, dentists, optometrists, hospital staff, public health workers and others.
- D. can help teachers understand and help meet health needs of children.
- E. are close to the child and can provide such health services as emergency care for accidents and illness, screening for health defects, detection of impending health programs, counseling for prevention and correction of health problem, helping to adapt the school program to special health needs, supervising giving of medication, working with many other health issues.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that serious consideration be given to the employment of school nurses who can make a significant direct contribution to the health and well-being of children and to their educational achievement.

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73-8 STUDENT FILES

- Whereas, the Wisconsin PTA has always upheld the philosophy that no individual should be labeled throughout his school years and/or after, and
- Whereas, some school files have personality profiles and behavior traits compiled by teachers and/or administrators, and
- Whereas, some schools also keep disciplinary records or files; and
- Whereas, as a result of technology information from this type of file could possibly be made available in the future upon the request of employers, government officials and other individuals, and
- Whereas, school files are based upon subjective evaluation for educational purposes and these determinations are made during an individuals' developing years and are not therefore necessarily an accurate evaluation of the more mature individual, and
- Whereas, the potential misuse and misinterpretation of this subjective information for other purposes might be to the great detriment of the individual and a violation of his constitutional rights, and
- Whereas, the WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON YOUTH has included "the balance between gathering and recording information about the child to aid his growth, and using it to label and shunt him into one another "track" in his schooling is too tenuous to permit a mere expression of good intent to justify these activities. We must continuously evaluate how and by whom such information is collected, by whom and for what purpose it is used, for how long and in what way it is maintained. Prevention of abuse can be promoted by being open about such records, by allowing the party concerned access to them and the opportunity to comment upon and challenge particular items, and by positive legal sanctions to ensure their non-harmful use."
- Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA work in cooperation with the State Department of Public Instruction for guidelines pertaining to; student files are to be open to parents or those in parental relationships and to students upon receipt of written permission from the parents so that all parties involved can have a clear understanding of the information contained in these files.

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73-9 PROTECT AND DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF A PARENT

Whereas, there is an increased awareness of the needs and rights of children, and
Whereas, there is increasing legislation on the State and Federal level concerning
 children and their needs and rights, and
Whereas, although the motivation may always be of the best intent, the
 Constitutionality of some of this legislation and its possible
 implementation has been questioned. Therefore be it
Resolved, that PTA will investigate all legislation pertaining to children with intent
 to jealously guard and uphold the Constitution of the United States and
 that all legislation concerning children must be specific as to what groups
 or individuals are to be served and the right of parent and family and
 home must not be infringed upon by any level of Government.

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73-10 USE OF MEDICATION

Whereas, there is a trend toward the right of a minor to receive medication without the parents' consent, therefore be it

Resolved, that any legislation of this type must define the type of disease and the age of the persons involved and the type of drugs to be used.

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73-11 PTA INVOLVEMENT IN DETERMINING TEACHER HIRING STANDARDS

- Whereas, the prime concern of PTA members is quality education for our children and the most important single element in quality education is the quality of teachers involved, and
- Whereas, in teaching as in other professions, experience is a valuable and vital resource which should not be denied our child in so-called economy drives when there are budget areas more suitable for curtailing than that which deal with teacher personnel, and
- Whereas, teacher hiring practices in recent years have tended to discriminate in favor of lower-salaried, less experienced teachers rather than hiring teachers with more experience and advanced study, and
- Whereas, such practices have actively discouraged teachers from seeking graduate degrees and improving their educational background in professional studies lest they endanger their employment status, and
- Whereas, it is stated policy of the Wisconsin PTA to take an interested part in such matters where members have delegated their powers to elected school board members, and to make their desire for experienced, competent teachers known by attending school board meetings and so declaring, be it therefore
- Resolved, that the PTA takes a firm stand in favor of recognizing the value of experienced and advanced training in teacher candidates and will actively support the hiring of the most highly qualified teachers available recognizing that this is the greatest single contribution we can make to the betterment of education as it affects our children, and be it further
- Resolved, that the executive board of local PTA units will actively pursue this aspect of school board policy by contacting teachers' organization leaders and school board members to determine present policy and to make reports concerning same at regular meetings when appropriate, and be it further
- Resolved, that PTA units will work to mobilize public opinion to support conscientious and impartial hiring practices of teachers and administrators in order to assure our children the best educators, and to support all reasonable economy moves which will not lessen the quality of the education process.

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73-12 SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL BUSES

Whereas, there is great difference in safety standards, requirements and inspections for school buses, be it
Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA actively support uniform safety standards, requirements and inspections for all school buses.

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73-13 SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Whereas, there are many uniquely different hazards that exist among schools,
be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA actively support adequate crossing guard
supervision when any need exists.

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74-1 CHURCH AND STATE

Resolution on devotional exercises in public schools.

- Whereas, the PTA believes that worship and religious education are the responsibility of church and home and not of the public schools or government institutions, and
- Whereas, the PTA believes non-denominational devotional exercises in public schools would have a most minimal religious value and would invite the intrusion of sectarian influence into the public system therefore be it
- Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA records its considered opinion that amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America would seek to impose or sponsor devotional exercises in our public schools should be opposed.

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74-2 CHURCH AND STATE

Resolution concerning separation of church and state.

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States is the basic law of the land, and
Whereas, the First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion,
therefore be it
Resolved, that the PTA continue to guard against all violation of the purpose of
separation of church and state.

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74-3 CURRICULUM

Resolution concerning textbook and other material credibility.

Whereas, the PTA believes that all children should be taught to love, respect, and appreciate their American heritage and to recognize their responsibilities to it, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin PTA support textbooks in teaching respect for our history, Constitution, founding fathers and fundamental American ideals and traditions and encourage our schools to make every effort, when presenting information about other forms of government to strive for complete and impartial interpretation.

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74-4 FINANCING EDUCATION

Resolution concerning State Lottery to support education.

- Whereas, the Milwaukee Common Council has proposed a state lottery to support the educational system of Wisconsin, and
- Whereas, the worthy cause (the education of children) will be used to promote vice (gambling), and
- Whereas, gambling has traditionally been considered a vice in Wisconsin and has been illegal, and
- Whereas, the moral principles of children and their parents will be corrupted by such a scheme, and
- Whereas, gambling pilfers money from those who can least afford to lose it, encourages their character weaknesses, and often results in their further dependence upon society to care for them, and
- Whereas, the lottery scheme to finance education has been reported to be unsuccessful in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, therefore be it
- Resolved, that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., go on record as opposing a state lottery for any purpose whatsoever, and be it further
- Resolved, that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers and its affiliated units actively engage in disseminating information to the public which will educate them regarding lotteries.

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74-5 INTEGRATED EDUCATION

- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has the responsibility to assure equal educational opportunities and to maintain schools as nearly uniform as possible, and
- Whereas, There is a need to eliminate racial and ethnic isolation in our schools, and
- Whereas, There is need to promote genuine understanding and mutual respect for people of diverse backgrounds and cultures by students and school personnel, and
- Whereas, The racial and ethnic isolation in some cases within and among school districts is increasing, and
- Whereas, A good mix of children in a school would reflect the general composition of the population in the school district, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA work vigorously to help eliminate racial, ethnic and socio-economic segregation by working with the Department of Public Instruction towards this goal and by establishing Human Rights Committees where parents, teachers and administrators would work together for greater understanding and equal educational opportunities for all children.

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74-6 MASS MEDIA PROGRAMMING

We reaffirm the National PTA position on the following item.

- Whereas, The National PTA holds that the mass media have a responsibility to the public and especially to children and youth, and
- Whereas, The National PTA is cognizant of the mass media's changing attitudes toward sex, nudity, foul language and violence in programming, and
- Whereas, The mass media insists that they are giving the public what it wants, and
- Whereas, The National PTA has a policy statement on mass media adopted in 1970 and reaffirmed in 1971, which is published as the Forward to Mass Media and the PTA, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA increase its efforts to encourage the mass media to provide experiences which are enriching, rather than possibly harmful to the lives of children and youth, and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA request the president of the Motion Picture Association of America to use the full influence of his office and seek to work with all segments of the profession involved in filmmaking in an all-out effort to produce and release films which supports esteem and respect for all individuals, and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA ask its members to express to publishers, producers, sponsors, distributors, and theater and station managers their opinions on specific offerings, advertisements and film trailers and their reasons for commending them for finding them objectionable, and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and all its branches assumes responsibility for making the membership aware of the position and suggested action set forth in the publication MASS MEDIA AND THE PTA.

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74-8 LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Whereas, Article III, Section c. of the National PTA Bylaws prohibits the participation or intervention in any way of the Association in political campaigns, as well as, limits the Association activities in attempting to influence legislation, and

Whereas, PTA could and should provide a valuable service to itself by informing them of proposed legislation, and now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers review the wording of the National Bylaws, Article III, Section c. and give consideration and study to revising the wording of same so that it will not serve as such an unintended but conspicuous discouragement to local unit legislation activity.

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74-9 STUDENT FILES

- Whereas, The school systems throughout the state keep records pertaining to students encompassing their school years;
- Whereas, The school records should be designed to help a child;
- Whereas, The records which indicate a personal opinion, a personal feeling or a moral judgment is not helpful;
- Whereas, The school systems may restrict or hinder the examination of those records to parents or legal guardians of the students;
- Whereas, The school systems, such as the Milwaukee Public Schools presently have a "Freedom of Information" policy; Therefore be it
- Resolved, That school records should indicate the following:
1. School enrollment (name of school)
 2. School attendance record
 3. Any handicap requiring special attention or programming
 4. Test results indicating the achievement level
 5. Accurate, objective observation or behavior
 6. Valid evaluating data indicating specific learning problems and/or disabilities; be it further
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA assist the PTA's within the school systems that restrict or hinder the examinations of records by parents or legal guardians to implement the establishment of policies which allow for "Freedom of Information" and it is understood that this could be done by making available a review of materials pertaining to "Freedom of Information" policies now in effect, or any other action the State Board of Directors would deem appropriate.

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**74-10 STATE SUPERINTENDENT
(Eligibility Requirements of)**

Resolved, That this delegate membership go on records as favoring (Reinstating the Former) eligibility requirements which will qualify the person for the office of State Superintendent to serve as a leader for public education.

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74-12 CLASSROOM SIZE

- Whereas, The basic emotional, physical and intellectual needs of children should be met as is nearly possible wherever they may be.
- Whereas, The prevention of personal and social ills is far better than all the remedial efforts that have been so far devised: for example, the juvenile probation and police officer, drug specialists, and special classes of every type held in junior and senior high schools. We believe that it is time for society to put forth additional efforts to prevent problems before they begin.
- Whereas, Some children are entering junior high school with inadequate reading as well as other learning skills.
- Whereas, Mainstreaming is becoming more common; elementary and secondary teachers are asked to teach the partially sighted, the hearing impaired and the slow learner part of the day. We believe that this should be continued.
- Whereas, The classroom teacher must be a clerical worker, social worker, nurse and curriculum coordinator.
- Whereas, The birthrate is decreasing, classrooms and schools are being closed, teachers are being dismissed, yet the supply of teachers is more plentiful than it has ever been before.
- Whereas, we believe that the para-professional is an important arm of the teacher but cannot replace the trained classroom teacher working with a group of children.
- Whereas, That one individual cannot possibly meet the basic physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of thirty-five differing individuals ages six to twelve who are becoming increasingly aware of their rights as individuals; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA, urge that our school systems move with the concept of reduction, with the goal being that the maximum number of children permitted in the classroom is not to exceed twenty-five where possible and feasible.

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74-13 TEACHER CERTIFICATION

- Whereas, The most critical educational question in the areas of Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance is the need for more teachers,
and
- Whereas, Quality and consistency in teachers in the areas of Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance is much more important, and of a higher priority level, than sheer numbers of teachers, therefore be it
- Resolved, That however great this may be (in light of Chapter 89) the qualifications for provisional licensing or certification of teacher for Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance may not be lowered, but that the above shall not be used as an excuse to make less than maximum effort to secure qualified personnel.

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74-14 TEACHER STRIKES

- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA in convention assembled in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, state the following:
- Work stoppages in schools, unlike other strikes affect not only labor and management, but also a third party – children. The children are not represented at the negotiation table, and cannot speak for themselves.
 - The Wisconsin PTA, on behalf of the children, urges its members:
 - To provide a forum for public airing of the issues at stake through arrangements by the PTA:
 - To urge immediate and continuous negotiations and mediation if necessary, to keep schools open, or to re-open them as soon as possible in the event of a work stoppage;
 - To guard against children becoming mere pawns of the contending sides in the reality of a school walkout.

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75-1 AWARENESS
HUMAN RELATIONS

- Whereas, Human relations are an integral part of family living, teacher/student, parent/teacher relationships and of an integrated, multi-racial, cultural and socio-economic society;
- Whereas, There is no activity in life that does not involve human interaction, and as a result human relations; and
- Whereas, Human relations cannot exist without the presence of human problems, which are not always easily resolved; BE IT THEREFORE
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and its local units work with school districts and the community at large to develop leadership programs, projects and policies which will generate mutual respect and understanding in human interaction between all people; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and its local units establish a close working relationship with local professionals and lay leaders to determine and define what human interaction problems are causing the greatest difficulty in the home, school and community and work with them to find and implement solutions to the problems.

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75-2 PARENT-CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Whereas, PTA policy requires the education of children and youth is most effective when home, school and community form public policy founded on unity of purpose; and
- Whereas, Federal laws and state statutes guarantee citizen representation for taxation which supports public education; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT increase efforts for more effective communication and cooperation between all parties involved in the decision-making process in our public schools in educating children and youth.

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75-3 PARENTING SKILLS

Whereas, The first years are critical in a child's developing intellectual processes;
Whereas, There is little or no training offered to parents for their role as parents;
and
Whereas, It is possible to prevent 50% of the cases of mental retardation through
early detection and proper care; THEREFORE BE IT
Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers be directed to
develop parenting skills.

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75-4 TEACHER AWARENESS

- Whereas, Teachers may influence the attitudes, opinions and aspirations of their students; and
- Whereas, Teachers' attitudes and prejudices, conscious or subconscious, may affect and influence the students; NOW BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and its local units urge and work to assure that teachers are given opportunities to analyze the forces of racism, sexism, prejudice and discrimination and how these forces affect the total learning process; to recognize and eliminate pre-judgments and generalizations they may have formed about minorities and women; and to increase their knowledge of the history, culture and contributions of minorities and women;
BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA stress the importance of school staff in-service courses in human relations, racism and sexism which create a new consciousness about human interaction, nonsexist and non-racist behavior in the schools.

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75-5 TRUANCY

- Whereas, Truancy continues to be a problem affecting all sections of the state;
- Whereas, Because of the pressure of numbers, there is a real danger that the first consideration is being given to the punishment of students experiencing truancy problem;
- Whereas, Truancy problems stem from many things, i.e. lack of understanding of the needs of children by parents and teachers alike; the dislike of certain teachers or subjects; inflexible curriculum, ineffective teaching methods; low achievement levels; and
- Whereas, Even though many studies have been made of truancy, few investigators have concentrated on the underlying causes; NOW THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers advocate programs and projects that will change the policy dealing with students experiencing truancy problems from one of punishment to one of understanding, which will attempt to solve the underlying difficulties; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the state PTA establish guidelines for local units which would allow the development of public awareness of the problems of truancy; an BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That these guidelines be established by a committee consisting of two state officers, two district advisors and/or presidents, and one representative of the Department of Public Instruction, and that an interim report of the committee be made in State Bulletins twice during the 1975 – 76 schools year and a final report made at the 1976 Wisconsin PTA Convention.

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75-6 EVALUATING TEXTBOOKS

Whereas, many parents are not aware of the method by which textbooks for public schools are selected;

Whereas, Parents could offer insight relating to community values; and

Whereas, Many parents desire that textbooks reflect strong moral character and the education goals of the community;

THEREFORE BE IT

Resolved, That the WCPT urge that local units become informed about the textbook selection procedure of the local school district and seek to share in the textbook selection process.

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75-7 INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

- Whereas, One of the purposes of the school is the preparation of students to make positive contributions toward a cohesive, multi-racial and multi-cultural society;
- Whereas, Preparing children to live and work in such a society requires an educational process which provides a quality inter-cultural educational program; and
- Whereas, It is not possible for all of Wisconsin's students to have the educational and social benefits which can accrue from relating to minority group persons in peer groups and in roles of leadership and authority within the school system;
- BE IT
- Resolved, That Wisconsin PTA work for the development of curricula to be used in schools which will promote a view of minority group people; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That curriculum provisions be made at all levels and through all disciplines for satisfactory experiences in working with and learning about people of various cultural and racial groups; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the PTA be actively involved in assuring that books be chosen for schools which honestly portray the existence, experience, and heritage of minority groups.

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75-8 SEXISM AND STEREOTYPING

- Whereas, Sexism and stereotyping of children according to their sex that now exists in education may be hindering students exposed to its hidden curriculum;
- Whereas, Children’s aspiration levels are developed at an early age and reinforcements of prejudicial attitudes are evident in schools;
- Whereas, It is important that children be given the opportunity to learn and grow with no preconceived boundaries, freedom to choose to develop to their fullest potential; and
- Whereas, Sexism hurts both girls and boys; BE IT
- Resolved, That PTA work with school districts to examine sexual stereotyping and to assure that books be chosen which offer a positive image of women’s physical, emotional and intellectual potential; which convey the concept of personhood; recognize and respect human qualities of people not demeaned or distorted by sex; provide models that promotes sense of worth, awareness, and through these, appreciation of the values of others; eliminate stifling choices in lifestyle and behavior by showing girls in active, self-actualizing situations and boys free to express fear, grief or uncertainty.

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75-9 USE OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES

- Whereas, Parents recognize the contribution of dedicated teachers in the formal education of their children,
- Whereas, Parents are the first teaching examples their children will know;
- Whereas, A life style is experienced rather than formally learned;
and
- Whereas, A change of life style is necessary to meet demands if infinite resources
THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That PTA members be encouraged to evaluate their life style and take action to live responsibly within the world's limited means; and BE IT
FURTHER
- Resolved, That PTA members as consumers question such practices as built-in obsolescence and the use of ecologically-damaging processes.

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75-10 RETIREMENT

- Whereas, People who work with our children are expected to be vigorous and healthy individuals;
- Whereas, Present retirement laws base full retirement upon age 65 or terminal illness; and
- Whereas, There are today many qualified teachers available to fill vacated positions;
- THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the PTA support legislation to allow retirement of teachers after a certain number of years of service or age whichever occurs first.

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75-14 REIMBRUSEMENT FOR CHAPTER 89

- Whereas, The implementation of Chapter 89 is placing an acute burden on local school district budgets;
- Whereas, Chapter 89 denies local school districts the right to set local priorities and;
- Whereas, As the need to meet local funding requirements of Chapter 89 may place parents whose children do not benefit from the legislation at odds with parents of special education students;
- THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation to require that state of Wisconsin to provide a greater percentage of the funds to implement Chapter 89; and
- BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That payment of said funds be concurrent with expenditures.

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75-15 CHILD ABUSE

- Whereas, The phenomena of nationwide child abuse annually result in untold tragedy and suffering for unknown numbers of children;
- Whereas, The causes of child abuse are many and complex, crossing social, economic and educational lines, and
- Whereas, A contributing cause may be a lack of parental knowledge of children's physical, emotional, and social needs; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and its local units becomes aware of the facts and alert their communities to the critical problems and to the measures necessary to correct them, and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA reaffirms the National PTA position on child abuse; and, BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That PTAs and PTSAs develop and promote parent and family life programs that address themselves to the problems of child abuse, its causes and prevention and that they encourage and support family life education curricula in the schools so that all future parents may be better able to cope with the problems of parenthood and family responsibilities.

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75-16 RESTRICTION ON DISSEMINATION AND SALES OF SMOKING MATERIAL

Whereas, Chapter 48 of the Wisconsin state statutes – Children’s Code – does not prohibit the sale of cigarettes and smoking material to minors;

Whereas, Many local municipalities have no ordinances regarding sale or use of cigarettes and smoking material by minors; and

Whereas, The Surgeon General of the United States has determined that smoking is a health hazard; THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliated units engage in an information program to children, parents and merchants to discourage the sale of cigarettes to children as well as use of cigarettes and smoking materials by children under the age of 17.

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75-17 CROSSING GUARDS

- Whereas, There are many uniquely different safety hazards that exist among schools;
THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA actively support adequate crossing guard supervision when any need exists; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA considers the primary criteria in determining the need for a crossing guard be the safety of children.

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75-18 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT RIGHTS EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

- Whereas, The state delegates the responsibility to communities for maintenance of education for children of that district;
- Whereas, Quality of education depends upon active support and cooperation of citizens;
- Whereas, PTA policy states, “The organization shall work with the schools to provide quality education for all children and youth and shall seek to participate in the decision-making process...”;
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Constitution provides “by law for the establishment of district schools,” legal responsibility to make decisions in those districts has been delegated to Board of Education; and
- Whereas, Quality of Education depends on the responsiveness of local school administration; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and all its units oppose any plan to dissolve or reorganize existing school districts without the consent of residents of districts involved; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA and all its units work to get all local school matters into the jurisdiction of local districts and that action on such matters be in the purview of the electorate.

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76-1 PTA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Whereas, A new awareness, alertness, enthusiasm, and interest in local, state, and national affairs exists among today's PTA members, who realize they cannot afford to be identified or involved with an organization who has a "bake sale," fun-fair, don't' rock the boat image, and does little else;
- Whereas, WCPT has recently declared its right to be involved in the decision-making policies governing our children's schools, our children's education, and our families' welfare; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That WCPT urge members to grasp each and every opportunity to attend local government meetings, informing the local media of PTA's interest, position, and involvement, in order to help dispel the "invisible image" PTA has suffered from in the past: and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That WCPT urge its members to seek out and support, AS INDIVIDUALS, candidates for public office who have proven and indicted they are "Friends of Public Education."

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76 – 2 STANDARD TEST RESULTS

- Whereas, Standardized tests are administered to assist students, teachers, counselors, and administrators in decisions they make regarding educational programming;
- Whereas, Educational accountability can be given as another reason for increased interest in group testing; and
- Whereas, The primary purpose of some tests is to reveal how well each student has mastered the basic skill; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge local school districts to use the individual test results in determining whether there is a degree of consistency between a student’s capacity to perform and his performance; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That where inconsistencies appear in a student’s profile of test results, every effort be made by the school system to identify the reason for these inconsistencies and measures be taken to correct them; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers implement an awareness program on the possible inadequacies involved in standardized testing, BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers implement and awareness program of testing procedures and interpretation.

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76 – 3 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

- Whereas, Many school systems find it beneficial to have parent-teacher conferences during the school year;
- Whereas, These school systems may specify a time for these conferences during a regular school day and children are excused from school attendance; and
- Whereas, The requirement, included in the 18 standards of Chapter 90 of the laws of Wisconsin, that school shall be held and students shall receive instruction equivalent of at least 180 regular full school days has caused many concerns about the ability to continue this practice;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA urge the local units to encourage their school board and administration to provide sufficient time during the school year for these conferences to take place, regardless of the mandatory 180 regular full school days of actual instruction.

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76 – 4 EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

- Whereas, Chapter 115 under Title XIV – Public Instruction specifically spells out the special education provisions to be met by the Multi-Disciplinary Team of the local school districts;
- Whereas, The child with the need for special services not meeting the criteria set forth under Chapter 115 results in some students with minimal handicaps being dropped from the special education services; and
- Whereas, These children deserve services to have their special handicaps helped;
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA urge local school districts not to put all their special education staff in the area of servicing students meeting the Chapter 115 criteria alone, but provide for students not meeting the criteria of Chapter 115, thus assuring them of the help they need and fulfilling their constitutional right to equal education.

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76-5 INVOLUNTARY INTEGRATION
INTEGRATION

Whereas, Certain areas have a problem within their school systems of establishing “racial balance” and of providing an atmosphere conducive to learning;

Whereas, In the past few years legislation has been introduced that would create the involuntary desegregation of schools; and

Whereas, The method of busing for integration’s sake has not been proven effective or ineffective; THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, That the WCPT oppose all legislation that does not allow for voluntary integration.

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**76-6 NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS
NEGOTIATIONS**

Whereas, Negotiated contracts between teacher unions and local school boards of education do directly affect the quality of education; and

Whereas, Parents and taxpayers have a personal interest in the progress and content of such negotiations; THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers shall promote and support legislation that would allow PTA representatives to sit in and observe the negotiating process;
and BE IT FURTHER

Resolved, That the PTA representatives be included as observers in all such negotiating sessions.

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76-7 PRIVATE SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- Whereas, Under current Wisconsin law, school districts provide transportation to students living more than two miles from the public school assigned to them by local school districts and does not permit public school pupils to choose the schools they wish to attend;
- Whereas, Private school pupils are furnished transportation under provisions of the same Wisconsin Statute, however, they are permitted to choose schools they wish to attend, providing such schools are within five miles of the set district boundary;
- Whereas, Costs of transportation for public and private school pupils is borne by the general public; and
- Whereas, Additional costs incurred in providing selective transportation to private school pupils can amount to several hundred additional dollars per student per school year;
- THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT promote and support legislation that pupils being transported to private school by public school districts be required to pay the difference in cost incurred between transporting them to the public school they would be assigned to attend and the private school they choose to attend.

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77-1 INFANT HEALTH TESTS

- Whereas, Medical science has made possible the early detection of abnormalities such as hypothyroidism and maple syrup urine disease and others; which, if undetected and untreated would cause mental retardation or other permanent, severe, disabling injury;
- Whereas, Every defect prevented or modified means tangible monetary savings as well as the saving of human resources; and
- Whereas, Many other states in the United States and many other countries in the world have already established successful programs for the testing of infants;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers work for the passage of legislation that would provide for state-wide testing to detect such abnormalities in new born infants.

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**77-5 TV VIOLENCE
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

- Whereas, The National Parent Teachers Association is a voluntary organization of more than six million members, whose major concerns are the health, education and welfare of children and youth; and the National PTA's determination to reduce the amount of television violence and to provide better across-the-board quality of programming has resulted in its launching a national project on the effects of television violence on children and youth; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin PTA appeared at the fourth regional hearing held in Chicago at the Sheraton Hotel on January 25, 1977 and testified before the panel; now, THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge the legislators of Wisconsin to support the PTA in its program to make both parents and decision makers in the communications industry aware of their mutual responsibility for reducing TV violence and improving the overall quality of programming.

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**77-6 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

- Whereas, At the time of school opening in the fall, there are school districts that do not have signed contracts and agreements with their employees;
- Whereas, Several school systems have had long teachers strikes this year; for example, one is Racine lasting approximately eight weeks and one in Superior lasting approximately four weeks;
- Whereas, The Milwaukee Public Schools System operated since January under a teachers “job action” and since March under the threat of a teachers strike; and
- Whereas, The education of children and youth is seriously affected during a period of protracted contract negotiations; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers request local PTA units in the state urge their local school districts to have contracts and agreements with all school employees before school opens in the fall, so that contracts do not expire during the school year; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers request that local units in membership work toward legislation that will make this action mandatory.

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**THERE WERE NO RESOLUTIONS
BROUGHT FORTH IN 1978**

79-2 CONFLICTS IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Whereas, Wisconsin Statutes 118.15 requires parents to compel children to attend school;
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statutes 118.15 contains options which relate to vocational, technical and adult education which are not available or enforceable;
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statute 118.15 requires compulsory attendance to the age of 18 in districts which contain within its boundaries vocational, technical, and adult education day schools whether or not the child is interested in education and whether or not the schools have available programs;
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statutes 118.15 allows a parent to claim that he is unable to comply with the law because of the disobedience of a child and that a child shall be proceeded against as a delinquent;
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Children's Code does not provide for attendance or truancy as a delinquency;
- Whereas, The local school district is not able to enforce any requirements with the court;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers initiate action to correct conflicts in the statutes relative to school attendance, vocational school opportunities, the Children's Code and enforcement of the same.

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79-3 CPR

- Whereas, Many victims of heat-stopping disorders could be saved by an easily learned modern life-support technique called CPR, short for cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
- Whereas, The American Heart Association estimates that 1,000,000 Americans will have a heart attack this year and that 650,000 of them will die – 350,000 before they can get trained medical help;
- Whereas, Some Wisconsin high school districts are including CPR training in a required course so the eventually most students graduating from these high schools will be trained in CPR;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers encourage all school districts to offer cardiopulmonary resuscitation training as part of the high school level curriculum; and
- Resolved, That it be further directed to encourage local units to offer CPR citizen training programs in their community under the supervision of trained CPR instructors.

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79-4 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Whereas, There is a continuing critical basic need for Environmental Education in Wisconsin;
- Whereas, Wisconsin has been a recognized leader in the nation through such initiators as; First Conservation Education Program, First Environmental Journal, First National Environmental Education Conference; and
- Whereas, There has been a loss of the momentum established in the early 1970's through various activities including those generated by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Council;
- BE IT
- Resolved, That the Governor of Wisconsin and State Legislature be urged to re-establish and refund the Wisconsin Environmental Education Council and charge it with:
- 1 Updating and implementing the comprehensive Environmental Education Plan developed during the time the Council received support: and
 - 2 Giving leadership in working toward the following goal endorsed by the Joint Committee on Education at its meeting in Madison on 10-18-78: "To aid the citizens in becoming environmentally knowledgeable and, above all skilled and dedicated citizens who are willing to work, individually and collectively toward achieving and/or maintaining a dynamic equilibrium between quality of life and quality of the environment."

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79-5 IMPACT OF MAINSTREAMING THE HANDICAPPED

- Whereas, Mainstreaming of the handicapped person into society has been mandated since 1976 by Public Law 94-142;
- Whereas, Mainstreaming, like any new movement, calls for changes in attitudes, behaviors, and educational structures;
- Whereas, In keeping with the first purpose of PTA we must all assume equal responsibility for guaranteeing the rights of the handicapped;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers develop an awareness project for parents, teachers, and students that will help to eliminate attitudinal rejections of those who are different, and the misconceptions concerning persons with physical and/or mental handicaps.

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79-6 STUDENT BUSING NEEDS

- Whereas, Thousands of Wisconsin children are transported daily to and from school their safety and welfare is of critical importance; and
- Whereas, General knowledge and understanding of the busing of children is somewhat inconsistent in our state; and
- Whereas, Concerned parents through the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers could be of help in insuring that buses are in safe operating condition and are driven in a safe manner;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers encourage its members to urge the development and adoption of busing committees at the local district and/or school level, where needed, to facilitate in any way possible the safest, most efficient busing of children. This would include adults riding buses, contracting bus companies to report defective equipment, helping to establish safe efficient routes, and working with school and bus company officials to help solve and transportation related problems; and
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress facilitate the development of educational materials on bus safety and operation for students, parents, and the general public.

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79-7 STUDY TO INCREASE PARENT/TEACHER PARTICIPATION WITH PTA AND SCHOOL

- Whereas, There has been a trend in some areas of the state where attendance and involvement by parents and teachers at PTA functions has decreased; and
- Whereas, Parental disinterest or negative attitudes can become contagious and seriously affect a child's motivation to learn;
- Resolved, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (contingent upon outside source funding) seek ways to increase cooperation between parents and teachers and students and administrators; and
- Resolved, That it be further directed to seek way in which to increase parent/teacher participation at the PTA local unit level;
- And
- Resolved, That it be further directed to seek ways in which to make parents feel welcome in school and at PTA unit meetings.

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79-8 LEGALIZED GAMBLING

- Whereas, The legislation of gambling in many states has led to a significant rise in compulsive gambling;
- Whereas, Legalization of gambling encourages those who engage in illegal gambling;
- Whereas, Gambling tends to victimize those who can least afford it;
- Whereas, Gambling, often accompanied by acts of violence, is a growing problem in many schools in Wisconsin, THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. go on record as opposing the further legalization of gambling in Wisconsin, including horse racing, casino gambling, or any other kinds of gambling, for any purpose whatsoever;
- and
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. disseminate information to the public to inform them regarding the problems of gambling.

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79-9 NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Whereas, The National Congress of Parents and Teachers legislative program states; “We support the creation of a Department of Education headed by a Secretary of Cabinet rank, to coordinate, and carry out federal responsibilities in education at all levels, with provisions for adequate cooperation with related agencies;”
- Whereas, A Senate Committee continues to study this matter and has recommendations to insure local control and citizen participation; and
- Whereas, President Carter has indicated the creation of a Department of Education as one of his top ten priorities; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers support the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in its efforts to obtain legislation that will give education a place on the President’s Cabinet that will allow the education community to interact with one Cabinet Secretary instead of several lower-level officers. Creating a new Department of Education enables Congress to more clearly define the role of the Federal government in education.

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79-10 NUTRITION

- Whereas, Nutrition is the process by which food is ingested, absorbed and utilized by the body for health and well-being;
- Whereas, Good nutrition is a necessary factor in the physical and mental health of every human being from before birth to old age; and
- Whereas, More and better education is needed in the subject by children and adults: THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge each local unit to present the need for nutrition education through publicity, study and adult education in its community;
And BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers approach the Department of Public Instruction with its concern; that we support its program of integrating nutrition into all subjects and classes in grades kindergarten through 12.

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79-11 MARIJUANA AND THE LAW

- Whereas, Marijuana has become a major drug problem in our schools because of its proliferation and because of the need of many students to deal in drugs in order to support their own habits;
- Whereas, Recent scientific studies have proved that marijuana is both psychologically and physically harmful and its use can lead to severe and probably irreversible damage;
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose the legalization of marijuana or any legislation that would lessen the penalties for the possession of 1 oz. or more of marijuana to mere fines and forfeiture;
- Resolved, That WCPT encourages swift judicial action for persons convicted on drug charges;
- Resolved, That WCPT continue to educate parents and children to the dangers of drug use, and encourage NCPT to consider drug education a priority issue.

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79-12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

- Whereas, Domestic violence is a serious problem in our society affecting the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all members of the family in which it occurs, particularly the children;
- Whereas, Children raised in homes where domestic violence and abuse occurs are more inclined to batter or be battered as adults;
- Whereas, Present state laws do not adequately deal with the problem of domestic violence and abuse;
- Whereas, The WCPT, being dedicated to the welfare of children and youth, must face this issue;
- Resolved, The WCPT support legislation that would:
1. Establish grants to organizations that counsel, give shelter and support to victims of domestic violence and abuse.
 2. Require police to have training in dealing with domestic violence.
 3. Give police officers the authority to remove the violent person from the home.
- Resolved, That WCPT instruct its president to write a letter in support of such legislation to the chair of the appropriate legislative committee, and that WCPTA urge PTA councils, units and members, to write letter of support to their legislators.

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79-13 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Whereas, The United States Constitution provides for a Constitutional Convention as a means of amending the Constitution, but fails to provide guidelines for such a convention;
- Whereas, A Constitutional Convention, called for whatever purpose, could pass an amendment that could seriously cut federal aid to education;
- Whereas, The PTA believes that all children and youth should have the opportunity, through free public education, to develop their capacities to the maximum;
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose legislation calling for a Constitutional Convention for any purpose until such time that guidelines are established for such a convention that would allow the citizenry to know exactly what issues will be acted upon;
- Resolved, That WCPT instruct its secretary to write a letter opposing such legislation to the chairs of the appropriate committees.

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79-14 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

- Resolved, That the WCPT urge legislation that establishes guidelines for requirements for hiring school bus drivers. These guidelines should include age limits no younger than 21, an adequate training program not only related to driving skills but also in the area of human relations, and any others that may protect our boys and girls that are required to ride school buses; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That this legislation include a provision for strict enforcement of the guidelines, as established, and an adequate minimum wage.

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80-1 ARTS EDUCATION

Whereas, The Wisconsin PTA, through its Commission in Individual Development Reflection project, has placed emphasis on the cultural arts; and

Whereas, The Wisconsin PTA believes that the arts – literature, music, visual arts, drama, and dance – are important to learning; THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. urge:

1. That Wisconsin PTAs create a public awareness of the arts;
2. That Wisconsin PTAs be advocates of improved arts education programs; and
3. That Wisconsin PTAs encourage school districts to integrate the arts into the school curriculum.

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80-2 PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

Whereas, Many legislative bills have been written pertaining to the health and welfare of minor children which excludes notification of parents in the treatment and counseling of minor children; and

Whereas, Such legislation encourages the government, schools, and social agencies to take over private family responsibilities; THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. oppose any legislation providing for medical treatment and counseling for medical and social problems of minor children which excludes parental notification within 72 hours from the time that a minor child seeks medical treatment, except in the case of medical emergencies.

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80 – 4 DANGER OF AEROSOL CANS

Whereas, Aerosol cans do contain a warning of cautions; and
Whereas, Many people are unaware of the explosive impact should an aerosol
can accidentally be incinerated; THEREFORE BE IT
Resolves, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge local
units to make parents and teachers aware of the explosive danger of
aerosol cans; BE IT FURTHER
Resolved, That WCPT urge schools to incorporate an awareness program into their
health and safety programs in their schools.

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81-1 ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Whereas, Running and/or jogging has become a popular American pastime;
Whereas, Many young youth, and not so young Americans participate in running and/or jogging to maintain physical and mental health; and
Whereas, Participation by school students in any outside running, jogging, and/or racing events such as the Milwaukee City Council of PTA/PTSAs, Inc., Run for Shelter, Al McGuire's Run, the Cancer Run, Wisconsin Junior Olympic Races, etc. during the school competition season makes students ineligible for further competition WIAA (Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association) events; Therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc., work with the WIAA through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and other sources to change the eligibility rule regarding student participation in non-school sponsored athletic events during the school competition season.

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81-2 PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Whereas, Public schools are a public trust; and

Whereas, School business, whether in board meetings or in the schools, is everybody's business; Therefore, be it

Resolved,

1. That the Wisconsin PTA urge local units to insist that their school districts accept the responsibility to keep the public fully and accurately informed about the business of public education;
2. That this be accomplished through articles in the Wisconsin Parent Teacher, distribution of the National PTA publication "Looking In On Your School," and any other means such as other publication, workshops, and conferences.

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81-3 SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY

- Whereas, The cooperative efforts of the home, school, and community are essential for the well being of children;
- Whereas, Never before has the family been faced with so much change, pressure, and conflict; and
- Whereas, Life's most important social group is the family;
Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA support the understanding of children's and parents' rights and responsibilities in providing for a harmonious family environment;
Be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA Family Creed be disseminated and used to stress the importance and role of the family in moral, academic, and social development of children; and be it further
- Resolved, That Wisconsin PTA urge the legislature to make decisions designated to honor, support and strengthen the American family.

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81-4 FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION CURRICULA

- Whereas, The purpose of family life education is to help students obtain factual knowledge and develop their attitudes and values which will result in responsible behavior that contributes to the well being of the individual, family, and society, and
- Whereas, The school serves as an extension of family life education through the roles which teachers and other personnel assume within their educational role to children, Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., urge local school districts to develop family life education curriculum related to the developmental needs of boys and girls; and be it further
- Resolved, That this curriculum should be coordinated and included in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in subject areas in which they are relevant.

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81-6 EARLY RETIREMENT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS

Whereas, Present retirement laws base full retirement upon age 65; and
Whereas, Many educators with long years of service would like to leave the field
because of physical or personal reasons; Therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA support legislation that would allow for early
retirement for public school educators without economic penalty to
these public educators.

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81-7 DEFINITION OF SCHOOL

- Whereas, In recent years there has been a rapid growth of private educational programs;
- Whereas, No uniform standards have been set for these new enterprises;
- Whereas, Each local administrator must determine if said enterprise is indeed a “school”; and
- Whereas, The administrator is responsible for school attendance of all students in the district; Be it therefore
- Resolved, The Wisconsin PTA pursue with other interested groups enactment of process for defining “school” for truancy, transportation and other necessary purposes.

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81-8 PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF JUVENILES ALLEDGED DELINQUENT

- Whereas, Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 48.01 (2), the best interests of the child shall always be of paramount consideration, but the court shall also consider the interest of the parents or guardian of the child and the interest of the public;
- Whereas, Society demands protection from juveniles alleged delinquent who have repeatedly demonstrated total disregard for the law and present statutes allow for identification publicly of such criminal offenders by order of the court; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statute 48.34 provides for the adjudication and rehabilitation of juveniles alleged to be delinquent;
- Resolved, By the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers that we oppose the Act to amend 48.396 (1) and (2); and create 48.396 (5) of the statutes, relating to permitting the news media to publish the names of delinquent minors and their parents or guardians provided by Senate Bill 30, 1981.

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81-10 SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- Whereas, The school lunch programs have always been a PTA priority;
- Whereas, Federal subsidies are vital to the existence of school lunch programs;
- Whereas, The anticipated cuts in subsidies could substantially increase the cost of lunches for the middle-income family;
- Whereas, The probable result will be lower quality lunches for lower income families due to rising costs; and
- Whereas, This could deteriorate and possibly eliminate school lunch programs;
- Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT actively oppose the cuts in the proposed federal budget for school lunch programs; and Be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge all local units to contact their federal legislators and oppose the proposed cuts for school lunch programs in their local school districts.

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81-11 FEDERAL/STATE SCHOOL AID CUTS

- Whereas, Approximately thirty million dollars in federal funds will be cut in aid as state school aid cuts being suggested which will probably have an impact upon programs such as remedial reading and math, etc., as well as staff in the majority of school districts; and
- Whereas, The PTA is responsible to promote the welfare of children and as always fought for excellence as an advocate of free public education; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT consider the funding of Wisconsin public education in Wisconsin; Be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units and councils to investigate the impact of these local school districts; and Be it Further
- Resolved, That local PTA units and councils be encouraged to contact their legislators and take other appropriate action on those cuts which affect districts.

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82-2 RUNAWAYS

Whereas, The purpose of PTA is the welfare of children and youth; and
Whereas, More than 700,000 American children run away from home every year,
of whom 80% are from fifteen to seventeen years old; and
Whereas, These runaways are boys and girls from homes of all races, socio-
economic groups and communities; and
Whereas, Runaways have suffered the consequences of being victims of crime, or
turn to crime as a means of support; Therefore, be it
Resolved, That the WCPT study and delineate the problems in families that cause
children to run away; and Be it further
Resolved, That the WCPT disseminate this information to local units through
publications, workshops, and conferences primarily devoted to
addressing the problems in families that cause children to become
runaways.

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82-3 IT'S NICE TO BE NICE

- Whereas, West Allis – West Milwaukee Council has recently developed a program on respect, good manners and kindness; and
- Whereas, The need of a program of this nature will be useful to both children and adults; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin PTA will not meet again in convention until the spring or 1983; and
- Whereas, The third week of September has recently been set aside by the Civility and Cultural Harmony Society; and
- Whereas, Schools and cities have been asked to participate in promoting “It’s Nice To Be Nice”; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That:
1. Each year in the State of Wisconsin, the third week of September be observed by all PTAs as “It’s Nice To Be Nice” week.
 2. This resolution be submitted to the National PTA Convention with the understanding that “It’s Nice To Be Nice” will be a National PTA program;
 3. It be suggested to the governor that he proclaim the third week in September as “It’s Nice To Be Nice” week.

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82-4 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AND VTAE SYSTEMS

- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has a long tradition of strong, comprehensive educational programs offered at public high schools and strong nationally acclaimed vocational, technical and adult education systems; and
- Whereas, The public school districts operating high school and VTAE systems have in recent years started to cooperate to maximize the use of staff and facilities for the benefit of all students; and
- Whereas, A Joint Commission has been working throughout the past year to strengthen the interagency/system district relationships;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., support continues cooperative working relationships to keep both the districts operating high school and VTAE systems strong and vital while permitting flexible contractual relationships to maximize the strength of both systems to the benefit of Wisconsin students and taxpayers alike, as consistent with the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin.

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82-5 USE OF CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS IN AUTOMOBILES

- Whereas, Automobile crashes are the number one cause of death for children over the age of one year; and
- Whereas, 93% of all young children ride in cars without seatbelts, safety seats or any other kind of protection;
- Whereas, A child's head is heavier in relation to the weight of the body, it is easier for a child to be thrown into the air on impact of a crash; and
- Whereas, It is believed that child safety seats could reduce deaths by 60% and disabling injuries by 67%; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.:
1. Encourage the use of child restraint systems in automobiles for all children through educational programs;
 2. Encourage national and local television programming to include information regarding child restraints, and to have actors use seat belts in family programming;
 3. Encourage crash testing and make the results available to the public; and
 4. Evaluate and encourage legislation which provides protection through the use of restraints for young children in automobiles.

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83-1 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ON MUNICIPAL BUS SERVICE

Whereas, There currently are no state laws or regulations governing student transportation on municipal; bus systems, state laws regulating student transportation apply only to the yellow school bus service; and

Whereas, Regulations applicable to the safety and operations of a municipal bus system are derived and enforced locally; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation regulating the passenger load capacity of municipal buses.

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**83-2 DEFINING THE RIGHTS OF VOTERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMON
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Whereas, A basic objective of PTA is to encourage citizens to participate in the decision making processes of public education;
- Whereas, 398 of Wisconsin’s 433 school districts are organized as Common School Districts and provide, by law, for citizen participation in the decision-making process at the Annual School District Meeting; and
- Whereas, The citizens of these Common School Districts need to know the purpose of the Annual Meeting and what role citizens do have at this meeting in order to participate in a meaningful fashion in the exercise of their responsibilities; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT shall support citizen participation in the Annual School District Meeting and shall provide factual information defining the Purpose of this meeting; and be it further
- Resolved, That local PTA units shall use this information to encourage increased attendance at participation in the Annual School District Meeting.

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83-3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Whereas, The WCPT is concerned with the welfare of children;
- Whereas, Previous resolutions of the WCPT were deleted after a period of ten years; And
- Whereas, The fourth district of the WCPT feels these positions on safety for our children should be reinstated; Therefore be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units to promote the safe use of: bicycles, mini-bikes, motorcycles, roller skates, skateboards, skis, sleds, and toboggans by all school age children;
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage the education of children for the use of safety precautions on amusement park rides, in danger of fireworks, and in the participation in water-sports;
- Resolved, That the state laws and local ordinances be monitored to assure adequate safety regulation for the protection of children and youth: and be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge its Districts, Councils and local units to work with other groups and agencies to maintain a continuing surveillance of safety matters in their areas.

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83-4 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ADULTS ALLOWING MINORS TO DRINK

- Whereas, The third objective of the PTA is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of youth;
- Whereas, The PTA has made a long-standing effort to reduce consumption of alcohol by juveniles;
- Whereas, Adults providing alcoholic beverages to minors are contributing to the delinquency of minors;
- Whereas, Authorities have difficulties proving adults have provided intoxicants to minors;
- Whereas, Under state law drinking by minors is considered a status offence not a criminal act; and
- Whereas, Adults aware of minors drinking are not considered contributing to the delinquency of minors; therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation establishing financial penalties for adults who knowingly permit on their premises the illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors.

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83-5 BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION FORMULA

- Whereas, The PTA believes that all children and youth should have the opportunity through free public education, to develop their capabilities to the maximum;
- Whereas, Many school districts in the State of Wisconsin have numbers of students whose education imposes a higher than average cost per child such as socio-economically deprived students, and the potential drop-out ; and
- Whereas, The Block Grant funding for the 1982 – 83 school year gave limited consideration to those high cost factors; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT as decisions are made on the Block Grant recommendations, will consider the inordinate burden that some districts bear in the terms of severity of children’s need; and be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT monitor Block Grant recommendations and use every available opportunity to support equitable alternative solutions in allocations of funds to provide for those needs.

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83-6 CHILD LABOR LAWS

- Whereas, The National PTA, as early as 1900, was in the forefront of those seeking to protect the health, welfare and safety of children through strong child labor laws;
- Whereas, The U.S. Department of Labor has proposed changes in regulations governing child labor laws;
- Whereas, Wisconsin law may differ from U.S. laws; and
- Whereas, The National PTA is currently recommending that the state PTA's review their child labor laws; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT study the status of Federal and Wisconsin child labor laws and oppose and seek revision of any 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.

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83-7 LIBRARIES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND CENSORSHIP

- Whereas, The PTA believes that students need to have access to information and to explore and experience the diversity of ideas in a pluralistic society;
- Whereas, PTA supports the rights of individual parents to guide their children in appropriate reading material;
- Whereas, Attempts to limit what all children read are occurring in all areas of the United States;
- Whereas, These attempts focus on the areas, community/school libraries, textbooks and other reading materials; and
- Whereas, The WCPT believes that all libraries are sources of information and ideas; therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT actively support the Library Bill of Rights as adopted January 23, 1980; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage all school boards/districts to develop a written policy for selection of materials and for the reconsideration of challenged materials; The development and implementation of said policies should be a cooperative effort involving schools, parents, and community; and further
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1983 National PTA Convention.

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

1. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
2. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan doctrinal disapproval.
3. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
4. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
5. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views.

6. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted January 23, 1980 by the ALA Council

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83-8 SAFETY SIZE REQUIREMENTS

- Whereas, Grewenow PTA has taken active interest in the education of both adults and children in seatbelt safety;
- Whereas, The National PTA has promoted seatbelt education as well as the Wisconsin PTA;
- Whereas, The state of Wisconsin’s Child Restraint Act, promoted by the Wisconsin PTA, becomes enforceable on May 1, 1983;
- Whereas, The new state law requires that children be “properly restrained in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer of the system”;
- Whereas, Manufacturers do not list size requirements pertaining to their individual seatbelt systems; and
- Whereas, Parents and Guardians have no way of knowing what the system requirements are for their particular automobiles; therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA strive to educate the people of Wisconsin as to the actual size restriction pertaining to automobile seatbelt usage for children;
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA request all seatbelt manufacturers to list and distribute all requirements pertaining to their systems; and be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution be submitted to the National PTA for inclusion in the National Seatbelt Education Project.

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84-1 CHILD FINGERPRINTING IDENTIFICATION

- Whereas, The National PTA has adopted a resolution which encourages fingerprinting programs through its state branches; and
- Whereas, The problem of missing children in the nation has reached epidemic proportions; Wisconsin's Department of Justice reports 13,000 to 14,000 children missing annually for a variety of reasons, and
- Whereas, Law enforcement authorities throughout the state of Wisconsin cooperate with organizations to promote the Child Identification Project which involves the fingerprinting of children under the Missing Child Act; Therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA encourage local units and councils to work with school districts in cooperation with law enforcement authorities to promote the fingerprinting of children; and be it further
- Resolved, That individual children will be fingerprinted only upon written consent of a parent and/or guardian; and be it further
- Resolved, That the official fingerprinting records shall become the property of the parent and/or guardian for personal use and safekeeping.

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84-3 SEAT BELT USE POLICY FOR CHILDREN TRANSPORTED IN PRIVATE VEHICLES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Whereas, Automobile accidents are the leading cause of death in children under 14;
- Whereas, A majority of deaths and injuries resulting from automobile accidents could be avoided by use of child restraint systems or seat belt use;
- Whereas, Our school systems have an obligation to protect and educate our children during the school day;
- Whereas, There are school districts with no policy regarding seat belt use when private vehicles are used to transport children for school activities, therefore, be it
- Resolved, The WCPT urge its local PTA units to inquire as to their school district's policy regarding seat belt use during the school day for school activities; and be it further
- Resolved, That if there is no policy, or inadequate regulations exist, local PTA units recommend that mandatory seat belt use be studied and implemented for all district children; and be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers for consideration.

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84-4 CHILDREN AND SUGAR

- Whereas, Nutrition and health are PTA priorities; and
- Whereas, The National PTA has a health education program defining the effects of sugar on dental health, but does not define current information regarding sugar's effects on behavior and health problems of children; therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA review research on sugar and its effects on behavior and health problems of children (including but not limited to hyperactivity, diabetes and hypoglycemia); and
- Resolved, That the National PTA make such information available to its member units, and encourage them to use it in their local programs and communications; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA urge school districts and boards of education to include significant findings in school nutrition curriculum; and be further
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1984 National PTA Convention.

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84-5 CHILDREN AT PEACE

- Whereas, Children and youth are the prime concern of both the Wisconsin and National PTA; and
- Whereas, Children of all ages and their parents are worried about the possibility of nuclear warfare; and
- Whereas, Nuclear warfare would be harmful to life on earth; therefore, be it Resolved, That the National PTA request our national and world Leaders to limit the widespread increase of nuclear weapons development; demand that all sides intensify negotiations for immediate reduction of such weapons; and work for the eventual elimination of such devices of destruction; and be further
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at eh 1984 National PTA Convention.

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84-6 STRENGTHENING SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Whereas, The existence of a strong, effective system of free public education for all children is essential to our democratic system of government; and
- Whereas, A commitment to quality education requires involvement and support of educators, parents, students, and the general public; and
- Whereas, Educators should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value that the community places on public education; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA increase its commitment to involvement in, and support of public education; and be it further
- Resolved, That PTAs/PTSAs become increasingly involved in activities that strengthen respect and support for the teaching profession, and be it further
- Resolved, That PTAs/PTSAs continue to support efforts to upgrade the quality of public school teachers, thereby improving the image and stature of the profession; and be it further
- Resolved, That PTAs/PTSAs encourage appropriate funding authorities to establish salaries commensurate with the professional preparation and dedication necessary for effective teaching.

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84-7 STATUS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Whereas, The status of public education has been the focus of numerous national and state reports, and
- Whereas, Many media reports have chosen to highlight the negative aspects of these reports, and
- Whereas, The National PTA has a fine publication called “Looking In On Your School”. Designed to encourage local PTAs to evaluate the school in their community, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units to study the national and state reports concerning critical education issues, and be it further
- Resolved, That the local units be encouraged to use the publication “Looking In On Your School” to help determine the status of education in their own school districts.

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84-8 EDUCATING FOR CITIZENSHIP

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers recognizes the critical need to create a public moral commitment to uphold and respect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States, and
- Whereas, We recognize the critical need to arouse the American people to an examination of our goals, the values we live by, and the quality of our national life, and
- Whereas, We affirm our belief that nothing could be more dangerous to our cherished democracy than failure to understand fully and appreciate deeply its values, privileges, and responsibilities; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA urge local units to encourage the teaching of our American heritage and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and be it further
- Resolved, That local PTAs be encourage to use the valuable resource from the National and State PTAs in presenting, through responsibly planned programs, the fundamental concepts of citizenship in our American democracy.

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84-9 SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELTS

- Whereas, The majority of the school districts in Wisconsin now bus elementary school children to their respective schools; and
- Whereas, The majority of elementary schools begin children's education at the kindergarten level; and
- Whereas, Bus safety and the safety of our children is of paramount concern; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin seat belt law requires that children be restrained in automobiles for their safety, but exempt school buses from this requirement; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage school districts to request bus companies to install and maintain seat belts in all buses for the 1984-85 school year; and be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge legislation to amend this law so that elementary school children be properly restrained on school buses through use of seat belts.

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85-1 HOME FIRE SAFETY

- Whereas, Each year fire claims nearly 12,000 lives in the United States, the death rate from fire among children under five and the elderly over sixty-five is three times that of the rest of the population;
- Whereas, Most of fire's victims die by inhaling smoke and/or toxic gases well before the flames reach them;
- Whereas, In countless instances lives would have been saved if the victims had been awakened to the fire in its early stages;
- Whereas, The citizens of the State of Wisconsin will be part of these statistics annually; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge its members to aide in increasing public awareness of the need to develop good fire safety practices in the home, be it further
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge its members to open the lines of communication between local fire departments, local units and councils to develop a comprehensive fire safety education program in the state and local communities.

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**85-3 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS
IN SCHOOLS**

- Whereas, School Counselors assist children in managing the stress caused by pressures and problems of the society in which they are nurtured;
- Whereas, School counselors provide families with information, assistance and support in raising children in rapidly changing society;
- Whereas, School counselors assist young people in understanding themselves, setting realistic goals and making decisions consistent with their interests, abilities and career objectives;
- Whereas, School counselors help parents and students plan a program of high school studies, do long range educational planning, gain entry into the world of work, and assist in their resolving personal concerns;
- Whereas, School Counselors serve as a vital link between students, parents, and the educational programs of the schools;
- Whereas, School counselors work with students individually and in groups to improve attitudes, behavior, and increase motivation toward success in school; be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers encourage local PTA/PTSA's to support the implementation maintenance of comprehensive K-12 developmental guidance and counseling programs.

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85-5 TRUANCY

- Whereas, It is the PTA policy to work with the schools to provide quality education for all children and youth;
- Whereas, The educational of marginal students, truants and dropouts, must be a major target of responsible educational reform in order to address the needs of Wisconsin students of which approximately 20% fail to graduate with their classes;
- Whereas, Research points out that the majority of these students exhibited a pattern of failure prior to truant behavior; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units to research truancy and alternative educational programs for its prevention in their respective school districts; and be it further
- Resolved, 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.

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85-6 VOLUNTARY INTERGRATION – CHAPTER 220

- Whereas, Integrated education is hereby affirmed to be a desirable goal whose achievement can result in enriched educational and personal experience for children of all races;
- Whereas, The Chapter 220 program of voluntary integration between the city of Milwaukee and its suburbs has been effective and participation in the program has increased each year;
- Whereas, Within this voluntary program, many suburban school districts have offered substantially more places to Milwaukee students than have been filled;
- Whereas, All children participating in the Chapter 220 transfer program do so voluntarily and with complete parental support and cooperation;
- Whereas, A voluntary solution to school district integration is preferable to any mandated solution; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers support the voluntary Chapter 220 program and urge the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin to continue to fund this valuable educational and social program.

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Whereas, Local control of education is cherished by Wisconsin citizens;

Whereas, Existing school district boundaries foster local control and any attempt to reorganize them would have a negative effect on this control;

Whereas, Attempts may be made to have the Wisconsin State Legislature reorganize school districts in the Milwaukee area to solve current problems of racial imbalance;

Whereas, There is no guarantee that reorganization of school districts in the Milwaukee area will solve these problems, contradictorily, there are numerous examples of good will on the part of suburban school districts to alleviate these problems while respecting the boundaries of all districts concerned;

Whereas, Reorganization of school districts in the Milwaukee area could result in the reorganization of districts throughout the state; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers urge the Legislature of Wisconsin to refrain from all attempts to reorganize existing school district boundaries anywhere in the State of Wisconsin.

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- Whereas, School district budgets are becoming an increasing burden upon taxpayers;
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is putting stronger pressures upon districts to become more energy efficient;
- Whereas, School districts are increasingly utilizing methods such as the closing off of outside school windows to meet energy requirements;
- Whereas, Existing minimum building codes pertaining to lighting, ventilation, etc. may be ignored during remodeling procedures;
- Whereas, The children and staff in our schools spend most of their daytime hours within these buildings; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That local PTA units be urged to research existing state building codes pertaining to schools; and be it
- Resolved, That local units work within their communities to ensure that all state building codes are being met; be it
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers support the necessity of meeting all minimum state building codes in schools for the health, safety, and welfare of our children.

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85-10 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND TELEVISION

- Whereas, The negative effect of television on our children is a prime concern of the National PTA; and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics released a policy statement in the effect of television on children and adolescents; and
- Whereas, This policy statement indicates that television programming can adversely affect learning and behavior of children and adolescents in a number of significant social, emotional, and ethical areas;
- Whereas, This policy statement further indicates that television is a powerful tool that can promote learning, create aspirations and induce pro-social behavior; Therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the WCPT inform local units and councils of the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on Children, Adolescents and Television; and be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units and councils to contact and support their local pediatricians in an effort to promote television awareness in their communities; and be it further
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1985 Convention.

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86-1 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

- Whereas, One of the Objects of the PTA is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth;
- Whereas, Children continue to be used in the creation, production, and/or manufacture of obscene and pornographic materials;
- Whereas, Children are exploited by the pornography industry, for monetary gain;
- Whereas, Pornography interferes and impedes healthy psychological and emotional growth in youth;
- Whereas, Wisconsin is one of only seven states in the United States that has no obscenity statute, BE IT THEREFORE
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the state legislature to create the necessary laws to protect our children from exploitation in the production and exposure to pornographic materials.

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86-2 RIGHT TURN ON RED

- Whereas, School zones have heavy traffic patterns, and the safety of the children can be questionable; and
- Whereas, Children are taught that green means go and many are not aware of the right turn on red law; and
- Whereas, Crossing guards have all but been eliminated at a lighted intersection; and
- Whereas, One of the main objects of National PTA is the safety and welfare of children and youth, THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers strongly urge legislation to prohibit right turn on red in all school zones when children are present, and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That local units and councils work with community officials to prohibit right turn on red in all school zones when children are present.

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86-3 SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS

- Whereas, Youth of today are using smokeless tobacco products in greater quantities than ever before; and
- Whereas, Health effects of smokeless tobacco products are leukoplakia, oral cancer, tooth abrasions, tooth loss, gum disease, and other oral disorders; and
- Whereas, Smokeless tobacco is depicted in advertisements as safe, clean and appealing to youth who do not realize the health hazards associated with its use; and
- Whereas, Nicotine in smokeless tobacco is addictive and can produce a “high” because of its stimulant effect; and
- Whereas, Nicotine also affects the heart and the rest of the circulatory system,
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT work for law enforcement which forbids the sale of smokeless tobacco products to children in Wisconsin.

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86-4 TEXTBOOK SELECTION

- Whereas, Some Wisconsin school districts are experiencing textbook selection controversy or conflict; and
- Whereas, Special interest groups, whether of religious, political, ethnic or other origin, could foster their specific teachings through textbook selection or control, in the public schools of Wisconsin; and
- Whereas, Textbooks should reflect local needs; and
- Whereas, A local textbook selection policy assures local control; and
- Whereas, Parental participation is necessary for the success of a local textbook selection committee; and
- Whereas, Statewide adoption enable special interest groups to influence publisher editorial policies; and
- Whereas, Publisher competition assures variety and quality in available textbooks; and
- Whereas, There is no need or apparent benefit in creating an additional state agency; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT support local textbook selection policies which include parent participation, and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose state mandated textbook selection.

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86-5 MANDATORY USE OF SEAT BELTS

- Whereas, The National PTA and the WCPT have the common object to promote the welfare of the children; and
- Whereas, Other states who have adopted mandatory seat belt legislation have found that fatalities have decreased significantly with seat belt use; and
- Whereas, The WCPT has taken the positive stand and supported legislation requiring seat belt usage for children, birth to school age, while being transported in motor vehicles; BE IT THEREFORE
- Resolved, That the WCPT support and urge state legislation to vote for a Safety Belt Law requiring all persons in Wisconsin to “buckle up” while operating or riding in any motor vehicle equipped with seat belts, and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, 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.

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87-1 SEVERE WEATHER EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

- Whereas, The safety and wellbeing of children is one of the primary concerns of school districts; and
- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin is a severe weather location which can endanger the safety of children; and
- Whereas, There are schools in Wisconsin that do not have early warning monitoring systems to provide advance warning of possible disaster situations (floods, tornadoes, explosions, etc.); and
- Whereas, Some school districts have not established written policies and procedures to protect the students during these possible disastrous situations; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) urge all local PTAs to determine whether their school district currently has an operational early warning monitoring system in each school building; and
- Resolved, That in districts not possessing such systems, local PTAs work with their School Board and Administration to obtain an early warning monitoring system; and
- Resolved, That local PTAs work with the School Board and Administration to establish routine maintenance checks to keep the early warning monitoring system in good operating condition; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That local PTAs work with their School Board to establish written policies and procedures which include periodic practice of plans to insure the safety of all students in various emergency situations which might be broadcast over the Early Warning Monitoring System.

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87-2 TEEN CLUBS

- Whereas, An object of the PTA is to promote the welfare of children and youth; and
Whereas, PTAs have developed numerous drug and alcohol prevention projects;
and
Whereas, The Wisconsin State Legislature recently adopted Wisconsin Act 337,
raising the drinking age to 21; and
Whereas, Additionally, Wisconsin Act 337 allows Class B establishments to
encourage underage youth to frequent taverns, lounges, bars and clubs,
thus influencing the establishment of drinking habits; and
Whereas, The drug, alcohol, is a dangerous substance, easily abused; and
Whereas, Some local communities may have alternative social activities offered at
social centers for young people, in contrast, other statewide
communities, without these resources, may need to utilize Class B
establishments for teen-age social activities; THEREFORE BE IT
Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and all local
units, councils and districts urge the Legislators to amend Wisconsin Act
337, requiring municipalities and cities to adopt a local ordinance before
Local Class B establishments could be utilized for teen-age social
activities.

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87-3 CIGARETTE SALES TO MINORS

- Whereas, Cigarette smoking is the most important single cause of preventable death in the United States today; and
- Whereas, Regular daily smoking usually begins in grades 7 – 12; and
- Whereas, Two-thirds of adult smokers begin their smoking habit during adolescence; and
- Whereas, The United States Department of Health and Human Services has recommended that all states ban the sale of tobacco to anyone under the age of 18; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin is among only twelve (12) states which do not limit sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and members of all affiliate units strongly urge Wisconsin State Legislators to co-sponsor and support legislation which would make it illegal for minors under 18 to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT and members of all affiliate units urge Wisconsin state and city governments to prohibit retailers from selling cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors.

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87-4 HOME SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has constitutionally been charged with the education of all Wisconsin children; and
- Whereas, The Legislature has established minimum instruction requirements for all students enrolled in public schools; and
- Whereas, The Legislature has established guidelines for curricula and pupil achievement testing within public schools of Wisconsin; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) urge the Legislature to establish requirements for home schools comparable to existing public school educational mandates; and
- Resolved, That home schools continue to only be for the children of the parent (s)/guardian (s), operating the home schools; and
- Resolved, That supervision of the home schools be required of the school district Superintendent/Administrator based upon specific guidelines established by the Superintendent of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That all children enrolled in home schools be required to 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.

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87-5 OUTSIDE EMERGENCY ALARMS AND PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOLS

- Whereas, Schools districts in the state of Wisconsin require fire safety regulations be met through practiced fire evacuation drills from school building; proper posting of fire evacuation procedures; and recognizable fire alarm systems in school buildings; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has supported the development of education towards the practice of good fire safety in the home, as well as the development of cooperation between local fire departments, local PTAs and Councils in promoting comprehensive fire safety education programs; and
- Whereas, School age children do not spend all their school time inside of the building proper, but also spend time before/after school in outside play areas, as well as for possible scheduled outdoor time for recesses, lunch breaks or other class activities; and
- Whereas, Adequate outdoor alarm systems and emergency procedures for building fires or other possible disasters are not developed in many school districts; and
- Whereas, There is often no way to identify who may be inside or outside a school building at all given hours during a school day and the absence of this knowledge could result in harm to both children and adults as well during a fire or disaster situation; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge all local PTAs and Councils to work with local fire departments and school administrators in the development of outside alarm systems and outside emergency procedures which ensure that all children and staff alike know what to do if the building cannot be entered; and
- Resolved, That included in these emergency procedures are assigned areas for every specific group of children and staff to meet under outside emergency conditions to assure proper knowledge that all are accounted for; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT actively work to develop legislation that will require this protection for all school children and staff throughout the state of Wisconsin; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT present this resolution for consideration of the National PTA at the 1987 convention.

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87-6 SALES TAX FOR SCHOOL TAX RELIEF

- Whereas, The greatest portion of a property taxpayers bill goes to support education; and
- Whereas, Alternative support needs to be rendered to reduce the school tax on property owners to alleviate the negative affect it places upon education; and
- Whereas, Sales tax would be a more equitable means of taxation; THEREFORE BE IT Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers)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.

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87-7 SMOKING PREVENTION

- Whereas, The United States Surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema; and
- Whereas, Approximately one in six deaths in this country are related to cigarette smoking; and
- Whereas, The probability of becoming a smoker is quite low if people refrain from smoking before age 20; and
- Whereas, Passive smoking by non-smokers has been found to be detrimental to their health; and
- Whereas, Prevention programs which emphasize the immediate consequences of smoking have proven to be successful; and
- Whereas, Schools should seek to protect the health of their students; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and all affiliate units encourage school districts to initiate and/or continue smoking prevention programs which begin at the elementary level and which stress the social and immediate consequences of smoking as well as the long-term consequences; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT and all affiliate units urge the elimination of all smoking areas on public school campuses; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliate units support the prohibition of all smoking at/on campus school events.

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87-8 STATE AID PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Whereas, An object of the PTA is to secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in education with the assistance of the general public and other educational groups; and
- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has been constitutionally charged with the education of all Wisconsin children; and
- Whereas, The Legislature establishes levels of financial support for all public schools; and
- Whereas, The Legislature periodically modifies the schedule for support payments to all public schools; and
- Whereas, The present support payment schedule creates budgetary concerns for many local school districts; and
- Whereas, These delayed aid payments have forced many districts to borrow funds to meet normal operating costs; and
- Whereas, The money the district uses to pay these interest charges could be used by the districts to create new programs for students or to provide additional monetary support for existing student programs, THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and its affiliates strongly urge the Legislature to revise the schedule of aid payments to all public schools so that equal monthly payments are made beginning not later than October 15th each year with the balance to be paid in June. The final payment will be less than thirty (30) percent of the total state aids paid to district during each school year.

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87-9 PTA INVOLVEMENT WITH PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Whereas, PTA supports and encourages excellence in public education, freely provided for all children, regardless of ethnic, cultural, religious and economic background; and
- Whereas, PTA supports the First Amendment to the United States Constitution as originally adopted; and
- Whereas, Public education is the means by which our democratic society is based and strengthened in an atmosphere free from separatist influences of one set of ideal over another, encouraging an American heritage conducive to the American dream of liberty and freedom of choice for all people; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin Public Schools offer a variety of valuable programs and curricula encouraging freedom of choice; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) strengthening its support of and commitment to public education for all seeking it; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT pursue this goal through projects which increase parental involvement within our public schools reaching out to all parents to encourage involvement in their children's education; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT request local units to work with teachers and administrators in school and in the home in order to increase awareness of problems and curricula opportunities available to Wisconsin Public School students furthering educational productivity.

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87-10 STIFFER PENALTIES FOR DRUG PUSHERS

- Whereas, Drug pushers are creating a harmful environment for the future generations of children and youth; and
- Whereas, Drugs have increased the chances of the upcoming generation being genetically damaged; and
- Whereas, Deaths have resulted from the illegal use of drugs; and
- Whereas, The Federal government has declared an all out war on drugs,
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) urge the Wisconsin Legislature to enact legislation creating stiffer penalties with mandatory jail sentences, no parole provision, and a substantial monetary fine to any person who unlawfully manufactures or delivers a controlled substance; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the penalties be assured upon a graduated scale based upon quantity involved and type of controlled substance: and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That in the event a person illegally manufactures or delivers a controlled substance and a person dies as a result of using that controlled substance, the “pusher (s)” shall be subject to a 2nd degree murder charge.

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87-11 GENERAL VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

- Whereas, An object of the PTA is to promote the health and welfare of all children and youth; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statutes, Section 115.80 (2)(a), (b), and (c) state that schools screen each child when the child first enrolls in a public school or state or county facility; and
- Whereas, Currently schools are not required to periodically screen student's vision and hearing, THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and all local affiliate units urge state legislators to create the necessary laws to insure mandatory vision and hearing screening for all elementary and secondary students in the public schools enrolled in grades k, 3, 6, 9, and 12.

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87-12 SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Whereas, The diversity and quality of our State’s public education system is at risk; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is concerned about the growth of organizations whose intent is to undermine public education in Wisconsin by promoting only their religious view; and
- Whereas, The WCPT does not lend itself in any way to the support or advancement of any one religious group or its beliefs; and
- Whereas, There is an open movement to control, not just to influence, our public schools; and
- Whereas, In the WCPT, the word “nonsectarian” recognized the right of every person to his/her own spiritual faith; and
- Whereas, The PTA is now and has been for 9 years a nonsectarian and nonpartisan educational organization promoting the welfare of children through home, school, community and place of worship; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliate units defend, protect, and communicate clearly the importance of public education to anyone who challenges the missions of our schools; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliate units strive to identify the successes of public education and create a sense of pride among our parents and community; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliate units salute public education.

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87-13 NON-USE OF GAMBLING PROFITS FOR EDUCATION

- Whereas, It is PTA policy to work for providing quality education for all children and youth and has traditionally held high regard for the value of public education; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is on record as opposing legalization of gambling for any purpose, whatsoever (1974 and 1979); and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is opposed to the use of profits from the state's new lottery being designated for school districts; and
- Whereas, State lottery funding for education offers an unstable source of income, raising havoc with responsible budgetary procedures for school districts; and
- Whereas, Lottery or gaming proceeds offer an unsubstantial, fluctuating in inequitable means of funding; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT and local affiliates urge the Legislature to provide sufficient funds for public education within the budget as required by the State Constitution; and
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliates be opposed to use of lottery or any other gaming proceeds for public school aids, and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT disseminate information to the public and its members regarding the use of these funds for public education and the effects on the budget.

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88-1 OBSCENE AND PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

- Whereas, One of the Objects of PTA is “to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship;” and
- Whereas, Studies show that pornographic materials get into the hands of children and youth; and
- Whereas, Local laws dealing with obscenity, child pornography, bestiality and sadomasochistic abuse may not be rigorously enforced; and
- Whereas, Significant number of convicted sex offenders admit having pornographic materials in their possession or having just read or viewed pornography before committing a sex offense; and
- Whereas, Studies show as many as one in four women will have had a sexually abusive experience before the age of eighteen; and
- Whereas, The problems associated with pornography as related to effects on children and youth are a continuing and growing concern; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin is one of a few states without an obscenity statute to control hardcore pornography; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) actively seek enactment of an Obscenity Statute for Wisconsin; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge its constituents to actively seek vigorous enforcement of the existing obscenity laws and use every available legal means to combat distribution and sale of pornographic materials.

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88-2 SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL RIGHTS

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourages local units to work with school boards, teachers, students and administrators in preparing guidelines for public school policies that would ensure quality education; and
- Whereas, Quality education for all students depends upon the active support and cooperation of all citizens in the school decision-making process; and
- Whereas, The enforcement of public school policies is necessary to maintain an optimal educational environment; and
- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin 1987 Assembly Bill 629 restricts parents, teachers, school boards and administrators from making and enforcing public school policies; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation which would enable parents, teachers, school board and administrators to develop and enforce public school policies which would provide quality education for all students.

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88-3 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

- Whereas, Educators and behavioral psychologists report that corporal punishment is not useful in school – and that we get more of the behavior we reward;
and
- Whereas, We desire to teach non-violent responses to problems in home and school, responses that protect self-esteem and provide for approachable authority; and
- Whereas, Corporal punishment is a threat to child health and safety in all places;
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) shall ask the Legislature for the immediate prohibition of corporal punishment in public schools.

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88-4 DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOR

- Whereas, The National PTA opposes discriminatory behavior of all sorts; and
- Whereas, Both blatant and subtle discriminatory behavior is still tolerated in many schools and classrooms as “harmless” or “not ill-intended”; and
- Whereas, Evidence if the offensiveness of such discriminatory behavior continues to surface repeatedly in colleges and universities and in workplaces which hire recent graduates of the nation’s preparatory schools; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) registers its abhorrence of all discriminatory behavior; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourages human relations, awareness and education among students, parents, faculty and administrative groups throughout the state; an BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT recommends open and frank discussion in its member associations about episodes of such discriminatory behavior in any schools and/or school related activities.

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88-5 ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

- Whereas, One Object of the PTA is “to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship;” and
- Whereas, 198 of the reported cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) were among children under the age of 19 as of December 7, 1987; and
- Whereas, None of the identified cases of AIDS infection in the United States is known to have been transmitted in the school, day care or foster care setting; and
- Whereas, The U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, as well as such prestigious organizations as the Institute of Medicine and The National Academy of Sciences, conclude that, in the absence of a vaccine or a medical cure, preventive educational programs are the best defense against the spread of AIDS: THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) believes that in the case of diagnosed Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, the child’s physician, public health officials, and parents or guardians of that child and the appropriate school personnel should be responsible for determining the most suitable placement for that public school child; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT discourage social displays that would seeks to segregate, persecute or ban children with AIDS from school; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage its regions, councils and units in cooperation with medical groups and representatives of the State Departments of Health and Social Services and the State Department of Public Instruction to conduct workshops and disseminate information on the disease’s nature, transmission, and legal, social and emotional consequences, so that parents, students, educators and the general public may be more knowledgeable as they encourage and/or consider state and local district policies addressing this issue.

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89-1 DANGEROUS INFLUENTIAL MUSIC LYRICS

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is dedicated to promoting the “welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship;” and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes the harmful impact of some certain rock lyrics on young listeners and recommends that parents and public be made aware of sexually explicit, drug-oriented or violent lyrics; and
- Whereas, Studies indicate that the parent population admits to being unfamiliar with problems created by effects from certain lyrics and admits further to being unfamiliar with these lyrics and the entertainers who promote them; and
- Whereas, Rock music is a dominant social medium available to any consenting listener as well as available for sale with no regard for the purchaser’s age; and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics and other concerned organizations encourage parents to take a more active role in monitoring music to which their children are exposed; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT, as in accordance with our beliefs as set forth in the Wisconsin PTA Family Creed, foster a learning partnership to “provide maximum protection from emotional and physical hazards for children and youth and which strengthen home and family life;” and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT actively engage in a commitment to inform parents regarding music lyrics that can help them recognize potentially dangerous areas and suggest action which would promote understanding and support wholesome choices; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT, through its Health and Welfare Commission, produce materials regarding music lyrics to distribute to all local units and/or to conduct area programs; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT work to promote an awareness of the music industry, musicians and entertainers as it relates to the influence of their lyrics on today’s youth; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT promote through lobbying a State law which would require full visible disclosure of lyrics for publication with sales; and BE IT FURTHER

Resolved, That the WCPT promote the development of a rating system for tapes, records and compact discs based on their lyrics; and BE IT Further
Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1989 National PTA Convention.

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89-2 SURVIVE ALIVE HOME FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) adopted a resolution in 1985 supporting home fire safety; and
- Whereas, The WCPT Board of Directors has adopted Survive Alive as the preferred safety program; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin Statute 101.14 states that fire prevention should be taught in public schools; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge its constituents to develop Survive Alive fire safety education programs in their local communities.

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89-3 FULL DAY FIVE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

- Whereas, One of the National PTA objects is to “promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, community and place of worship;” and
- Whereas, Many studies show that parental involvement is the most influential ingredient for a successful school experience; and
- Whereas, Quality is not determined by the length of the program day; THEREFORE,
BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and its constituents oppose mandatory full day kindergarten for five year olds.

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89-4 IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

- Whereas, Our public school system is designed to meet the needs of all children, including those whose problems present the greatest challenge to teachers and school administration; and
- Whereas, Students with disruptive behavior patterns should not be kept in regular classrooms when they jeopardize the learning of other students; and
- Whereas, Students who violate existing school rules and regulations are often subject to suspension; and
- Whereas, When suspension from school occurs, it often adds to the problem of the students, the school, and the community; and
- Whereas, Suspended students upon returning to school may have suffered academically because of such suspension; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and its local units encourage school authorities to give favorable consideration to the establishment of in-school suspensions for these students, where practical, considering the best interests of all students; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its local units encourage school boards, legislators and the voting public to support financial resources and appropriate programs necessary for implantation of this resolution.

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89-5 TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

- Whereas, Colleges, vocational-technical schools and universities are limiting enrollment to students with a higher level of academic proficiency; and
- Whereas, The United States is producing students less able to compete in the world job market; and
- Whereas, Colleges, universities and vocational-technical schools are providing remedial courses; and
- Whereas, A student intending to pursue a college a education must achieve and adequate level of competence in basic studies in order to compete for increasingly limited space in university and college admissions; and
- Whereas, A student intending to pursue a vocational education must achieve an adequate level of competence in basic studies in order to enroll in and complete his or her chosen program; and
- Whereas, A student intending to join the labor force immediately after graduation from high school must achieve and adequate level of competence in basic studies in order to get a job and enjoy opportunities for job advancement; and
- Whereas, Tutoring has been shown to benefit students; THEREFORE BE IT Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and its constituents support the availability of tutoring and encourage participation by a student who needs help in the pursuit of his or her educational goal or goals; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its constituents encourage school districts to establish a policy which will identify students in grades K-12 who need tutorial help and provide that assistance so that these students can effectively pursue their educational goals in an increasingly competitive world; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage legislation allocating federal and state funding to provide tutorial assistance to students in need regardless of financial need.

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89-6 TEXTBOOK LEGISLATION

Whereas, The National PTA and the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) have a long-standing opposition to public funds being made available to non-public schools; and

Whereas, Textbooks being made available to non-public schools is a funneling of public funds away from public schools; THEREFORE BE IT

Resolved, That the WCPT oppose any legislation which would provide textbooks purchased with state funds to non-public schools.

89-7 HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CERTAIN MUSIC VIDEOS

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is dedicated to promoting the “welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship;” and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes the harmful impact of some videos on young viewers; and
- Whereas, Studies support evidence that the cutting and imaging techniques used to produce some videos have a debilitating impact on young viewers, rendering them less able to be involved in and attentive to academics or physical activities of a wholesome nature; and
- Whereas, Educational research shows some videos promote hypersensitivity to visual stimulus, causing a decreased attention span and increased social deviance in youth; and
- Whereas, Content analysis indicates that 75% of concept music videos (those involving a theme vs. a concert performance) contain sexually suggestive material; and
- Whereas, 56% of the videos mentioned contain violence which often includes acts committed against women, producing sex-bias and anti-social modeling behavior; and
- Whereas, The effects of these videos are concealed to the participating viewers and their parents, not readily recognized or understood; and
- Whereas, Harmful impacts of these videos can be felt by all population segments with no regard to grade level, age, sex, environment or regional difference; and
- Whereas, Studies show the parent population admits to being unfamiliar with problems created by this media; and
- Whereas, Dr. Richard Narkewicz, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, stated the Academy’ support to “explore means of educating parents, children and the industry to the potentially harmful effects of rock lyrics and music videos on children;” and
- Whereas, Currently there are no available consumer guides on the content of music videos, thus, there is not an adequate warning system to alert consumers to sexually-explicit, drug-oriented, or violent images and/or lyrics;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT take up the challenge to educate and familiarize parents with the medias, the content and impact of said music videos and their lyrics; BE IT FURTHER

- Resolved, That the WCPT support the American Academy of Pediatrics in their efforts to make the communication/music industry aware of their responsibility for improving the overall quality of programming as stated in the Wisconsin PTA Basic Policy, 1988; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT produce materials to distribute to local units as well as conduct area programs fostering a learning partnership helping parents and children to recognize emotional and physical hazards as well as avenues of alternative choices as outlined in the PTA Family Creed; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1989 National PTA convention and encourage instituting Federal legislation towards the development of consumer guides allowing the contents of music videos to be given a rating system.

89-8 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- Whereas, The acquisition of funding of local schools through whatever means available, including state and federal, should be the responsibility of the local school districts; and
- Whereas, Local school districts are heavily financed by local property taxes; and
- Whereas, Constitutional amendments may call for removing the local property tax which supports public schools; and
- Whereas, Increased state funding will eventually lead to increased state control and significant loss of control by local school board; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That 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 CULT AWARENESS

- Whereas, Various cults often recruit members by deceptive means; and
- Whereas, Cults often keep their members by using mind control and by alienating the members from their families; and
- Whereas, Many families have deep emotional scars caused by their children's dependence on cults; and
- Whereas, An awareness of the recruitment and retention techniques of cults could help prevent a young person's entry into a cult; and
- Whereas, Increased cult activity is being reported by newspapers in Wisconsin;
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) urge its local units to hold education programs to inform families and youth about methods of recruitment and techniques used to exercise control over member's thoughts and actions by cults; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT provide a list of available resources to assist local units in planning such programs.

89-10 PARENTAL CHOICE

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has long-standing and established principles and positions which offer strong support for the public schools; and
- Whereas, The WCPT has long-standing opposition to any voucher system; and
- Whereas, The WCPT has historically been an advocate for all children and has sought to improve all of Wisconsin's public schools; and
- Whereas, When examined, the Governor's proposed "parental choice plan" fails to improve the public educational system for Wisconsin children;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the 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.

90-1 ATV SAFETY

- Whereas, It is the basic policy of the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) to support legislation which safeguards and/or relates to the health, safety and welfare of children; and
- Whereas, It is the WCPT position that there must be statewide and local safety codes and enforcement of these codes as they apply to children in the operation of vehicles; and
- Whereas, Since 1982, 60 ATV-related deaths have occurred in Wisconsin. In 1987, 12 deaths and 95 accidents, 33% to children under the age of 16. In 1988, 6 deaths and 81 accidents, 50% and 36% to children under 16. As of December 1, 1989, there were 5 deaths and 100 accidents, 40% and 33% to children under 16; and
- Whereas, Since 1982, nationwide, over 1300 ATV-related deaths and 400,000 injuries have occurred. Almost half of them to children under 16; and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that "Children under 16 are most at risk of having an ATV accident because they lack the coordination, balance, reflexes, perception, maturity and judgment necessary to operate them safely;" and
- Whereas, At this time, no Wisconsin state legislation exists which prohibits children under 16 from operating or being a passenger on an ATV; and
- Whereas, The National Association of Attorneys General recommends that state legislation including the prohibition of ATV use by children under 16 be supported; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That 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; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support the American Academy of Pediatrics in its efforts to educate parents and children about the dangers of ATVs; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1990 National Convention.

90-2 COMMERCIALS IN THE CLASSROOM

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) believes the classroom is a place for learning; and
- Whereas, The WCPT supports private/public school relationships and technology which improves the instructional program; and
- Whereas, Whittle Channel One Instructional program require the viewing of/listening to commercials as a condition of receiving this instruction; and
- Whereas, Commercials are a proven method of marketing and profit; and
- Whereas, The WCPT believes that children absorb this form of advertising;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose the Whittle Channel One format and other programming whose availability is contingent upon the mandatory viewing of/listening to commercials.

90-3 FLASHING LIGHTS ON SCHOOL BUSES

- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin does not mandate the use of flashing lights on all school buses; and
- Whereas, The safety of our children and all children during the entire twelve months of the year is our first and foremost concern; and
- Whereas, Motorists approaching a stopped, non-flashing school bus become confused, not knowing whether or not to wait or proceed around the bus; and
- Whereas, The safety of our children and all children becomes jeopardized when an oncoming motorist proceeds around a stopped, non-flashing school bus;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers 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.

90-4 EXTENSION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Whereas, Curriculum demands are constantly increasing; and
Whereas, Current teacher/pupil contact time is inadequate to meet these demands; and
Whereas, The length of the school year has not been increased by mandate in many years; THEREFORE BE IT
Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support expanding the school year to accommodate added curriculum demands with intent to assure quality education and that it be equitably funded by the state.

90-5 SMOKE DETECTORS IN SCHOOLS

- Whereas, The objects of PTA include promoting the welfare of children and youth in home and in school; and
- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) includes in its Legislative Policy (1970), to support safety measures which will protect children and youth from accident and injury; and
- Whereas, Many of Wisconsin schools are 75 years of age or older, and the risk of fire is greater than that of newer school buildings meeting current building codes; and
- Whereas, It was found in an actual fire test that after a smoldering fires breaks into flames, stairways and corridors become impassable in less than five minutes; and
- Whereas, Current use of smoke detectors in schools is limited and the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations has recently adopted "Life-Safety Requirements for Existing Schools", effective May 1, 1990; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That 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; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT inform its membership through local units and councils as to the use of smoke detectors in schools, and encourage them to survey the schools and request installation of smoke detectors in a timely manner; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That WCPT support legislation to provide adequate state funding to school districts for implementation of appropriate smoke detector installation in all schools.

91-1 THE COMMON SCHOOL FUND

- Whereas, Rule 3 of Section H of the Wisconsin State Statute 121.02 states: Make available to all pupils a current, balanced collection of books, basic reference materials, texts, periodicals, and audiovisual materials which depict an accurate and unbiased way the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society; and
- Whereas, Chapter 43.70 of Wisconsin State statute states that “all monies apportioned from the Common School Fund shall be expended for the purchase of library books and other instructional materials for school libraries... according to the rules prescribed by the State Superintendent”: and
- Whereas, The interest earned by the Common School Fund is distributed to the public school districts each year to be used for the purchase of library media materials; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourage the maintenance of the Common School Fund as it was created in Article X, Section 2 of the state constitution; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support amending Section H of Wisconsin State Statute 121.03 as follows: School Districts shall provide evidence that expenditure for library media center materials at least meet or exceed the amount of Common School Fund money received.

91-3 SCHOOL/SITE BASED MANAGEMENT

- Whereas, The National PTA Bylaws, Article III, d states, “The organization shall work with the schools to provide quality education for all children and youth and shall seek to participate in the decision-making process establishing school policy, recognizing that the legal responsibility to make decisions has been delegated by the people to board of education.”; and
- Whereas, Parents, teachers, students and the general public are governed by school policy; and
- Whereas, Sharing of responsibility in policy making will result in greater responsiveness to student and societal needs and therefore improve the quality of educational opportunity; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) recognize and inform its affiliates that the concept of school/site based management is a method of revitalizing (restructuring the schools) empowerment of parents and educators; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage PTAs to support school board policies or state legislation that ensures that school/site based management includes parents representation and parent organization (PTA) representation.

91-3 GUN SAFETY

- Whereas, The Objects of the PTA promote the safety, health, and welfare of children and youth in home, school and community; and
- Whereas, The PTA strives to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- Whereas, The Center to Prevent Handgun Violence reported at least 71 students and teachers nationwide were killed with guns on school campuses between 1985/1986 and 1989/1990 school years. Another 201 were wounded by gunfire and at least 242 were held hostage at gunpoint; and
- Whereas, A national survey estimated that in 1987, 135,000 boys carried handguns to school daily and 270,000 carried handguns to school at least once; and
- Whereas, Firearms are the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury, and the leading cause of homicide and suicide in childhood and adolescence; and
- Whereas, Every 36 minutes, an American child is killed or injured by firearms; and
- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics in its, Report of a Forum on Firearms and Children, states, "The forum urges child advocates to develop action agendas concerning children and firearms."; and
- Whereas, There are injury prevention strategies, such as; education, safety related technological modifications, and legislative approaches that can reduce the deaths and injury from unintentional firearm shootings; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support legislation that provides education for our children and youth in firearm and ammunition safety; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation to promote educational campaigns for adults regarding firearms and ammunition safety and proper storage; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation and encourage the use of safety related technological modifications, such as trigger locks, by firearms' owners; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support the American Academy of Pediatrics in its effort to educate children and adults about the dangers of firearms.

92-1 RAILROAD SAFETY

- Whereas, PTA promotes the welfare of children and youth in home, school and community, as stated in the Objects of PTA; and
- Whereas, The Basic Policy of the National PTA is presently void of any railroad safety position, and the encouragement of same; and
- Whereas, There are 5240 railroad type crossings in Wisconsin and nationally, 178,627 public at grade-crossing; and
- Whereas, In Wisconsin, vehicle-train crashes are deemed more likely to occur on urban city streets where “train-over-the-road” traffic levels are heavier; and
- Whereas, Besides crashes, children in urban and rural areas have the experience of crossing a railroad track at some point and time, as: vehicle passengers, pedestrians, and possible as school bus riders; and
- Whereas, Nationally, there are 580 fatalities of trespassers on railroad property; and 691 fatalities with a vehicle-train at grade-crossings, and numerous additional injuries; and Wisconsin, 142 vehicle-train crashes occurred with 57 injuries and 4 fatalities; and
- Whereas, Operation Lifesaver, is a nationwide railroad safety program, designed to save lives through free educational “speaker presentations”; and
- Whereas, Operation Lifesaver stresses “Engineering”, “Enforcement” and “Education”, through programs for pre-school, K-12 (including driver education classes); THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage the education of children and youth on railroad safety, and that school districts encourage this education through the Operation Lifesaver, Inc. program; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That, as the need arises, locals and/or councils contact an Operation Lifesaver, Inc. representative to offer this educational program; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That this railroad safety resolution be forwarded to the National PTA for consideration at the June 1992 National PTA Convention.
- .

- Whereas, American families are being offered fewer and fewer quality television programs which promote high moral standards and which parents deem suitable for young viewing audiences; and
- Whereas, Few programs exist specifically for children, so children watch adult-oriented programs; and
- Whereas, An average household watches 49 hours of television per week (Nielsen survey⁰ and the average child will have watched some 5,000 hours of television by the time he or she reaches first grade and 19,000 hours by high school age (TIME Magazine, October, 1990); and
- Whereas, By age 15, the American Academy of Pediatrics reports that most children will have spent more hours in front of the television than in school; and
- Whereas, The FCC bans “indecent programming” between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., but so vaguely defines indecency that enforcement is rendered near impossible; and
- Whereas, As a condition for license renewal, The Children’s Television Act of 1990 mandates that all broadcasters carry children’s educational or instructional programming while in fact this requirement can be fulfilled by brief public service announcements or vignettes, therefore limiting broadcasters’ responsibility to provide quality children’s programming; and
- Whereas, According to a 1988 Harris poll, American children view an average of more than 14,000 sexual references and innuendos on television programs (not including commercials) each year; and
- Whereas, Many parents feel powerless in controlling what their children are exposed to on television; and
- Whereas, The television industry does not respond when public opinion was voiced, as was the case in January, 1992, when a Michael Jackson video was edited after viewers registered complaints about its explicit sexual content; and
- Whereas, As stated in The Guide to Basic Policy Program (1990), subsection Television Programming: “The Wisconsin PTA supports/encourages making the communication industry aware of their responsibility for improving the overall quality of programming”; and
- Whereas, With PTA membership at over 48,000 in Wisconsin and 7.1 million nationally in 1991, these voices of concern could be a driving force in influencing public opinion and could have a lasting impact on prime-time programming; THEREFORE BE IT

- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) take a stand against the sexual saturation of prime-time television; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) develop a plan wherein local PTA chapter would be supplied ongoing support for letter and telephone campaigns directed at the various parties involved in the television industry and their sponsors; the plan to include but not be limited to the compilation and updating of telephone and address listing and a statewide sharing of successful tactics employees by local chapter; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourage each individual PTA member to voice his/her disapproval of inappropriate sexual subject matter during prime0time television programming with the purpose of eliminating such programming; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) seek that leadership of the National PTA in implementing the Children’s Television Act of 1990 and submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1992 National PTA Convention.

92-3 COMPARABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- Whereas, The PTA supports a quality education for all children; and
- Whereas, The state of Wisconsin was founded on the principle of free public education for all; and
- Whereas, Our basic form of government is motivated by the principle that each individual is equally valuable; and
- Whereas, School districts with high concentrations of poverty students face a financial overburden especially in the area of early childhood education; and
- Whereas, Higher incidences of poverty in a school district greatly increases the need for supportive services; and
- Whereas, Districts with high concentrations of poverty students face a financial overburden in the area of dropout prevention programs for high risk youth; and
- Whereas, The current state school aid formula developed in early 1970's does not provide equal benefit to all children at a comparable cost to all taxpayers; and
- Whereas, The current school finance system tends to discriminate against children based on their place of residency; and
- Whereas, A poverty weighting factor will allow all children who live in poor districts to have the same opportunity for a good education as children who live in wealthier districts; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support equalization of the general school aid formula by incorporating a poverty weighting factors.

92-4 CLASS SIZE

- Whereas, One of the basic premises of the PTA is to promote the quality of our children's education; and
- Whereas, Effective student-teacher communication and interaction is essential in the learning process; and
- Whereas, Class size has a direct effect on the ability of the teacher to effectively communicate and interact with students in the classroom; and
- Whereas, Increasing social problems, alcohol and drug use, and TV violence further complicates the ability of many students to learn; and
- Whereas, The current economic conditions have caused an increasing number of both members of two-parent families to work outside the home, thus placing even responsibilities on the teacher to serve as a positive role model and mentor; and
- Whereas, More than half of our states have recently lowered class size; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the PTA should work with local Boards of Education and the state legislature to provide reasonable class size standards for all grade levels and additional state funding to support these class size standards.

92-5 COST CONTROLS

- Whereas, That National PTA Bylaws support/encourage public schools that will ensure all children and youth in Wisconsin a high-quality education; and
- Whereas, The National PTA supports and encourages excellence in public education, involvement of parents and community members, support for instructional programs and personnel, and adequate funding; and
- Whereas, State and Federal mandates are frequently unfunded – placing fiscal restraints upon the local financial resources available for instruction; and
- Whereas, State mandated cost controls without consideration for existing bargaining agreements, would without change cause other elements of a school districts operating budget to be cut to pay for salaries and other benefits; and
- Whereas, Cost controls with consideration for growth, costs of new facilities, the added cost of operating new facilities, and the cost of bringing aging buildings up to mandated codes could by their nature encourage unequal opportunity for quality for education; and
- Whereas, There is great disparity of cost per pupil throughout the state that would be magnified by pre-empting local school board ability to divert more local resources to education; and THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose mandatory cost controls is controlled without consideration for growth or other circumstances beyond a local school districts control that would prevent adequate funding for the education of all children and youth.

93-1 RETENTION OF THE 21 YEAR OLD DRINKING AGE

Whereas, PTA is not and has always been concerned with the problems of chemical dependency in children and youth; and

Whereas, Alcohol is a drug which may be hazardous to the health of youth and presents an additional danger if used while driving; and

Whereas, According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Wisconsin DOT), since the repeal of the 19 year old drinking age, 19 and 20 year old drivers are three (3) times less likely to be involved in drinking related crashes than when they could legally consume alcohol; THEREFORE BE IT

Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support retention of the 21 year old drinking age.

93-2

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Whereas, Elderly and retired citizens represent a large portion of our communities;
and
Whereas, They are a valuable resource for children; and
Whereas, Many children are deprived of relationships with the elderly in our
society today; and
Whereas, Such relationships can give children a historical perspective and an
intergenerational understanding; **THEREFORE BE IT**
Resolved, That the WCPT encourage local units to develop and/or promote
intergenerational programs within schools and/or the community.

93-3 CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

- Whereas, Lead is a powerful neurotoxin that can cause irreversible damage to the developing nervous system of young children, and result in reduced intelligence, learning disabilities, behavioral problems and in severe cases, mental retardation, coma, seizures or death; and
- Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers lead poisoning the number one environmental health threat to children in the United States; and
- Whereas, The principal pathway of lead exposure in children is through inhaling or ingesting dust or chips from lead paint which is found in 75% houses in the United States built before 1978; and
- Whereas, An estimated 17% of all children have lead levels high enough to cause neurological damage, (75,000 in Wisconsin and 3-4 million nationwide) resulting in millions of dollars in medical and educational cost; and
- Whereas, The only reliable method of detecting lead poisoning is a periodic blood test since most lead poisoned children do not show symptoms; and
- Whereas, Lead poisoning is entirely preventable through public education and effective legislation aimed at primary prevention; and
- Whereas, Only 16 states have lead laws with some screening provisions, (though many do not require environmental or medical follow-up), which confirms the need to increase the number of states with comprehensive lead poisoning laws; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin does not have comprehensive legislation that addresses this issue; and
- Whereas, On January 26, 1993, a 6 month legislative study sponsored by the March of Dimes and the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities submitted its recommendation for a comprehensive childhood lead poisoning law; and
- Whereas, That recommendation was aimed at primary prevention through medical screening and follow-up, environmental assessment and abatement, licensure and training of abatement professional, and public education and outreach; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT shall support passage of comprehensive childhood lead poisoning prevention legislation in Wisconsin aimed at primary prevention; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge local unit members to contact the Governor, state Senators and members of the Assembly to support passage of a comprehensive childhood lead poisoning prevention laws; BE IT FURTHER

Resolved, That the WCPT shall disseminate information regarding lead poisoning in children, including the sources and pathways of exposure and the methods of preventing lead poisoning, as well as the need for periodic medical screening of children under 7 years of age to detect lead poisoning; BE IT FURTHER

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the National PTA for consideration at the 1993 National PTA Convention.

93-4 CHILD LABOR LAWS

- Whereas, Employment during the school week has become a fact of life for many American youth; and
- Whereas, More than 2/3 of high school juniors and seniors and about 1/2 of sophomores, hold jobs during the school year; and
- Whereas, Teenagers who work over 15 – 20 hours per week are at risk academically; and
- Whereas, The Child Labor Legislation passed in Wisconsin in 1991 allows 14-15 year olds to work up to 18 hours per school week and 16-17 year olds 26 hours per school week; and
- Whereas, The National PTA as early as 1900 has been in the forefront of those seeking to protect the health, welfare and safety of children through strong child labor laws: THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support exiting legislation and urge stricter child labor standards than the legislation adopted in Wisconsin in 1991; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge that DILHR enforce the current Wisconsin child labor standards; BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT promote distribution of information on child labor law standards to parents and high school students.

93-5 LOTTERY ADVERTISING

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has opposed a state lottery for any purpose since 1974; and
- Whereas, In 1979, the WCPT adopted a position opposing further legislation of gambling; and
- Whereas, Legal gambling is currently advertised and promoted in Wisconsin; and
- Whereas, Current lottery advertisements utilize talking animals and other characters with child appeal to promote the lottery; and
- Whereas, Children are influenced by advertising; and
- Whereas, Wisconsin State Statutes do not adequately prohibit promotional advertising of the lottery; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT and its affiliates contact and urge the Wisconsin Gaming Commission, the Governor and Wisconsin State Legislation to encourage stricter enforcement of lottery advertising statutes, especially as they relate to the influence on children.

94-1 VIOLENCE IN VIDEO GAMES

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is dedicated to promoting the “welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship”; and
- Whereas, The term “videogames” is defined broadly to include any interactive computer game including all software and hardware; and
- Whereas, The term “video game industry” is defined as all manufacturers of video games and related products; and
- Whereas, Video games such as, “Mortal Kombat”, “Night Trap”, and “Lethal Enforcer” contain graphic scenes of violence that even most of the video game industry finds offensive; and
- Whereas, Research from the 1993 American Psychological Association showed that the typical child will watch 8,000 murders and more than 100,000 acts of violence before finishing elementary school. By the age of 18, the same teenager will have witnessed 200,000 acts of violence, including 40,000 murders, and
- Whereas, Research studies have found that, at least in the short term, children who play violent video games are significantly more aggressive afterwards than those who play less violent video games; and
- Whereas, Studies show that violent TV programs and video games have similar effects in raising children’s subsequent levels of aggression; and
- Whereas, Research shows violent video games can suppress children’s inclination toward engaging in pro-social behaviors; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT work to educate and familiarize parents with the content and impact of violent video games; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, The WCPT support the efforts to develop ratings or other appropriate information systems to inform parents and consumers about the content of video games; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT actively support efforts to end video game violence that desensitizes consumers to the value of life, human and animal; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT encourage all members to express our concern about violence in video games, with written or verbal communications to distributors and manufacturers, and by refusing to purchase or rent games containing inappropriate levels of violence; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1994 convention.

94-2 BACKGROUND CHECKS ON TEACHERS

- Whereas, The State of Wisconsin has licensed teachers convicted of sexual assault against students; and
- Whereas, In 1984 the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) resolved that we continue to support efforts to upgrade the quality of public school teachers, thereby improving the image and stature of the profession; and
- Whereas, In 1986 the National PTA, in resolution, resolved that Jurisdictional cooperation in Child Abuse Cases encourage state PTAs to urge cooperation between and among federal, state, city, county, and tribal agencies in the treatment of the abused and neglected child; and
- Whereas, Article III 1c of the WCPT Bylaws reads “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth”; and
- Whereas, A number of states have passed background checks on teachers;
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT support background checks on teachers for the issuing or renewal of a license or permit; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, THE WCPT support the State Superintendent to do background checks on teachers who hold a life license (a license with no expiration date); and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the State Superintendent be prohibited from issuing or renewing a license or permit until he or she has received the results of the background investigation and there be no child abuse or sexual assault convictions; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, The WCPT support the assistance of the Department of Justice in the investigation of the backgrounds of the teachers; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1994 convention; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the National PTA encourage each state PTA to review their laws and encourage their legislators to design a “Background Checks on Teachers” bill that best fits the needs of their state for the protection of their children.

94-3 SCHOOLS FOR PROFIT

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) have long-standing and established principles and positions which offer strong support for a publicly funded, publicly operated school system; and
- Whereas, “Schools for profit” may rely heavily on a voucher system which would allow public tax dollars to flow to private schools; and
- Whereas, The primary goal of “schools for profit” would be to make education a profit center rather than provide the best education possible; and
- Whereas, “Schools for profit” tend to educate an elite few and not provide an equal education for all children; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the WCPT oppose “schools for profit” operated with the use of public tax dollars and support our current publicly funded, publicly operated school system; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT work to educate and inform parents about “schools for profit” and their impact on the public school system; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT support legislation to oppose the “schools for profit” concept.

94-4 DISTRIBUTION OF HARMFUL MATERIALS TO MINORS

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers recognizes the necessity of responsible AIDS education and awareness programs; and
- Whereas, All Wisconsin school districts are mandated to have a curriculum in place which includes discussion on AIDS educations for grades K-12; and
- Whereas, Parents do not deny the urgency that the AIDS epidemic requires, but rather questions the tactics used by certain groups; and
- Whereas, Pamphlets about safe sex have been distributed without school or parental consent to minors as they enter and leave school functions; and
- Whereas, These pamphlets use questionable language, sexually explicit graphic cartoons and non-medical slang in the disguise of educational materials;
THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA re-emphasize its support and commitment to the efforts of schools to educate Wisconsin youth about AIDS; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the Wisconsin PTA work with the state legislature to review, define and strengthen current statutes that govern the distribution of harmful materials to minors as defined on the Wisconsin State Statutes 948.11

94-5 LICENSING FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Whereas, One of the major concerns of the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) is quality education for our children and one of the most important elements in a quality education is the required training and experience of the educators involved; and
- Whereas, In school administration, as in other professions, educational training and experience is a valuable and vital resource which should not be denied our children; and
- Whereas, The WCPT recognizes that in a time when public schools are confronted by national and international challenges, as well as local property tax and state funding problems, those men and women who lead our schools and educate our children must be of the highest caliber; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, The WCPT support maintenance of licensing standards for school administrators.

95-1 STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- Whereas, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) recognizes that the education of our children is one of the most important determinants of the quality of life for the future of Wisconsin and its citizens; AND
- Whereas, That education should be of the highest quality for all children; AND
- Whereas, The educational process of the State of Wisconsin should be driven by the needs of all children; AND
- Whereas, Children, their schools and their education should not be affected by partisan politics; and
- Whereas, Education of the children of Wisconsin is best addressed by the educators, parents and citizens of the State of Wisconsin; AND
- Whereas, The most important function of the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is to direct and support the educational policy of the State of Wisconsin which serves the educational needs of all Pre K – 12 children; THEREFORE BE IT
- Resolved, By the members of the WCPT at the 86th Annual Convention that the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction remain an independently elected position; AND BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge the Legislature to continue to maintain the Department of Public Instruction, headed by the elected State Superintendent, which directs and supports the pre K-12 educational functions of the State of Wisconsin; AND BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved, That the WCPT urge the Legislature to reject any attempt to create an appointed State Board of Education.

95-2 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

- WHEREAS, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely effects a child's educational performance; AND
- WHEREAS, The term TBI applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas such as cognition, speech/language; memory, attention, reasoning; abstract thinking; communication; judgment; problem solving; sensory; perceptual and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing and executive functions such as organizing, evaluating and carrying our goal-directed activities; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) shall encourage the State of Wisconsin and local school board to meet their obligations to Traumatic Brain Injured children through programs that will develop their fullest potential for the benefit of both themselves and their community.

95-3 1-900 TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- WHEREAS, One of the Objects of PTA is “to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship; AND
- WHEREAS, Data indicates that 1-900 and 1-976 telephone numbers are easily accessible to children and youth: AND
- WHEREAS, 1-800 numbers are being “transferred over” to pay per call services without proper identification as to the called; AND
- WHEREAS, This is an emerging problem and the number of children and youth accessing these numbers are increasing: AND
- WHEREAS, 1-900 and 1-976 telephone number vary in services and often are pornographic in content; AND
- WHEREAS, The FCC is working vigorously with tele-communication companies to tighten policies regulating such occurrences that may be considered fraudulent; AND
- WHEREAS, The problems associated with telephone pornography as related to the effect on children and youth in particular are a continuing and growing concern; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) through its constituent bodies, increase public awareness to the potential pornographic nature of 1-900, 1-976 or additional assigned telephone number and the extent to which they are used by children and youth without the parents/guardians; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT and its constituents bodies work with the FCC, elected officials and legislators to pass legislation to regulate access by children and youth to 1-900, 1-976 or any additional assigned telephone numbers; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1996 convention.

95-4 PORNOGRAPHY ON COMPUTER NETWORKS

- WHEREAS, Computer networking is an ever changing technology and forms the “backbone of the information superhighway”; AND
- WHEREAS, Presently, one of the informal rules of computer networking is “access to computers should be unlimited and total”; AND
- WHEREAS, Children and youth are currently vulnerable to all forms of pornography available through computer networking; AND
- WHEREAS, The computer superhighway is an emerging and ever changing technology for which there is no formal rules or regulations concerning pornography; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) work with the FCC, elected officials and legislators to establish guidelines on pornography for the computer superhighway, AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT support efforts to inform parents and consumers about the availability of pornography on the computer superhighway; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1996 Convention.

95-5 ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT TO WISCONSIN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The primary concerns of the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) are the educational enrichment, the emotional welfare and the physical well-being of the children of our state; and recognizing that a safe learning environment is essential for the promotion of these interests; AND

WHEREAS, The proximity of environmentally hazardous elements to schools can detract from and inhibit the growth, health and development of our children as well as proposed industrial sites which have the potential for harming the physical well-being of our children; AND

WHEREAS, There are currently no special provisions set forth by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding the protection of our children and school from dangerous emissions and other environmental concerns; AND

WHEREAS, The ambitious pursuit of business and industry by local and state authorities can occasion them to overlook too easily the adverse health effects such developments can have upon our children; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That local PTA units throughout the state of Wisconsin familiarize themselves with the proximity of industrial pollution from all considered sources (air, water, hazardous transport, etc.) to their respective schools; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage the legislature to direct the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to give prompt and serious attention to the special concerns relating to the proximity of industry and pollutants to Wisconsin schools; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the local Wisconsin PTA units continue to be advocates for the health and safety of our children by addressing the above concerns and by strongly encouraging their elected officials to vote in the best interests of our children in this matter as children are the most vulnerable to industrial pollution.

95-6 HIV/AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION

- WHEREAS, Infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), is one of country's great health challenges; AND
- WHEREAS, In this second decade of the AIDS epidemic, 1 in 5 people diagnosed with AIDS are young adults between the ages of 20-29; AND
- WHEREAS, Given the average ten year period between infection and onset of symptoms, the majority of these people were probably infected with HIV during their teenage years; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourage school districts to respond to the threat of AIDS by preparing students with the knowledge and skills to avoid infection with human immunodeficiency virus; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage school districts to establish age appropriate HIV/AIDS instruction to be covered sequentially in grades Kindergarten to 12; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage school districts to train educators in the delivery of effective HIV prevention education; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT advocate and legislate for sufficient funds to reimburse districts for costs incurred to implement and administer HIV/AIDS education.

96-1 BUDGETS AS THEY AFFECT THE CHILDREN OF WISCONSIN

- WHEREAS, According to Basic Policy, the Wisconsin PTA supports and encourages public schools to ensure a high quality education for all children and youth in Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS, One of the Objects of the PTA is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, Public education is a responsibility of the state and appropriate funding is required to ensure that quality educational programs are secure; and
- WHEREAS, The state legislature determines the actual amount of expenditures provided to local schools; and
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has historically expressed concern about State of Wisconsin budgets as they affect the quality of education, health and welfare of the children and youth of Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS, The WCPT feels that future budgets proposed by the State of Wisconsin could adversely affect the quality education, health and welfare of the children and youth of Wisconsin; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT urge local unit members to contact the Governor of Wisconsin and their legislators urging opposition to budgeting proposals which will reduce funding or limit increases in current funding levels for public education or other child-related programs; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT urge local unit members to contact the Governor of Wisconsin and their legislators to authorize funding for child-related programs to ensure the continuation of high quality public education in Wisconsin that supports the WCPT objects and mission.

96-2 INAPPROPRIATE TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

- WHEREAS, Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has basic policy addressing inappropriate sexual subject matter during primetime television programming (92-2); and
- WHEREAS, National PTA has a legislative directive concerning the amount of violence in programs and commercials aired during the time when children are most likely to watch television; and
- WHEREAS, Day time television has shown a decreasing moral subject matter; and
- WHEREAS, Throughout our nation more than 8 million children watch television on a daily basis, unsupervised; and
- WHEREAS, Some television has offered our children a warped view of the world, making the abnormal appear normal, and is teaching them that emotional violence is the best way to resolve conflict; and
- WHEREAS, Millions of dollars are spent on advertising annually during these programs; and
- WHEREAS, It has been proven that when pressure is applied to advertisers that changes in programming can occur; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT develop a plan wherein local PTA chapters would be supplied ongoing support for letter and telephone campaigns directed at the various parties involved in the television industry and their sponsors; the plan to include but not limited to the compilation and updating of telephone and address listing; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage each individual PTA member to voice his/her disapproval of inappropriate television programming as defined by the individuals with the purpose of modifying such programming.

96-3 TEACHER CERTIFICATION

- WHEREAS, An Object of the PTA is to secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in education; and
- WHEREAS, The Peabody Journal of Education states, “A number of studies have found that in comparison to beginners who have completed a teacher education program, teachers who enter without full preparation are less sensitive to students, less able to plan and redirect instruction to meet student needs (and less aware of the need to do so), and less skilled in implementing instruction”; and
- WHEREAS, Studies indicate that teachers are most effective when they have training in; subject matter preparation, design of instruction, and the art of teaching; and
- WHEREAS, Druva & Anderson in 1983 found consistently positive relationships between student achievement in science and the teacher’s background in both education courses and science courses; and
- WHEREAS, “Regular Certification” is defined as – State mandated teacher preparation requirements that include subject matter as well as professional education coursework; and
- WHEREAS, “Alternate Certification” is defined as diverging substantially from the regular certification process in terms of both the standards and methods for teacher preparation and entry; and
- WHEREAS, The National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future states “as teacher demand is growing, and as standards for teachers are being raised... over 50,000 teachers annually have been entering teaching on emergency or temporary certificates with little or no preparation at all.”; and
- WHEREAS, The National Center for Education Statistics found that “In 1990-91, 15 percent of all schools (including both public and private) reported having teaching vacancies they could not fill with teachers qualified in the course or grade level to be taught. The most commonly used method of dealing with this problem was to hire substitutes.”; and
- WHEREAS, Wisconsin has faced and may face in the future, pressures to lower standards for teacher certification. THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) advocate for the maintenance of high quality teacher education and certification requirements that include: subject matter preparation, design of instruction, the art of teaching, and teacher training in Parent Involvement Skills; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the WCPT urge the legislature and other educational governing bodies to require that temporary and emergency certificate holders complete the necessary training needed to acquire a "Regular Certificate" and to monitor that process to insure completion in a timely manner, and
BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the WCPT work to assure legislation and regulation of any "Alternate Certificate" issued will hold those teachers to same high standards as teachers with "Regular Certification".

96-4 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

- WHEREAS, PTA believes that the overall goal of student assessment and testing programs should be to identify how instruction can be improved and learning increased; and
- WHEREAS, Assessments should be used to increase the opportunities for students, rather than deny opportunities through practices such as tracking or discriminating by gender, ethnicity, culture or disability, and
- WHEREAS, Standardized tests may be culturally and/or economically biased and emphasize less important factual knowledge and rote memorization skills rather than high-order skills such as problem solving, writing and critical thinking; and
- WHEREAS, PTA believed a valid assessment system has several components including multiple measurements and indicators that provide a more balanced representation about quality of education; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourage the utilization of performance based assessment that reflects the different kinds of knowledge and skills that a student is expected to acquire and which may include, but are not limited to, written examination, portfolios of student work, group projects and open-ended multiple choice questions; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage procedures and information that are understandable to parents, students, and teachers as well as provide guidance about how student learning can be increased; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT encourage provisions for maximum local and state control regarding the determination of tests to be given, the appropriate uses for the resulting data and for continuous review related to assessment quality, appropriateness of standards, objectives, procedures, exercises and usefulness in improving the instructional program; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT strongly encourage the involvement of parents at all levels, but particularly at the local level, in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of viable student assessment and testing program.

97-1 CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- WHEREAS, Content standards established a general description of what we want students to know; and
- WHEREAS, Performance standards are developed to match and measure the content standard; and
- WHEREAS, In Wisconsin PTA Resolution 96-4, Student Assessment, the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourages the utilization of performance-based assessment that reflects the kinds of knowledge and skills that a student is expected to acquire...; and
- WHEREAS, *Education Week*, in the January 22, 1997 document titled "Quality Counts" states "without standards to define what children should learn and how well they should learn it, we are traveling down a road with no destination"; and
- WHEREAS, *Education Week*, in the January 22, 1997 document titled "Quality Counts" states that thirty eight (38) states have adopted standards in one or more core subjects, being English, math, science and history, and thirty one (31) states have adopted standards in all core subjects, while only nine (9) states are developing standards in core subjects, and only three (3) states have no standards and no plans to develop any; and
- WHEREAS, At the National Educational Summit, governors and business leaders concluded the "effort to set clear, common academic standards for students in a given school district or state are necessary to improve student performance." THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) support the development of content and performance standards for the state of Wisconsin, under the leadership of the State Superintendent of Public instruction; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, The WCPT works to ensure that state and local educational content and performance standards be developed with the input of parents, students, educators, administrators and the community; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT support state standards that will serve as goals for teaching and learning at the local level. These content and performance standards should serve as a model that can be adopted on a voluntary basis by local school districts, designed around the needs of students and based on the curriculum of that district; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That content and performance standards should be used to determine both the format and content of student assessment. These content and

performance standards should clarify not only what the student should learn, but also what statewide and local assessments will measure.

97-2 AUTOPASSENGER SAFETY

- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) has stated that “We will support the safety measures which will protect children and youth from accident and injury” (1970LP); and
- WHEREAS, The WCPT has basic policy encouraging the use of child restraint systems in automobiles for all children through educational programs (82-5); and
- WHEREAS, The WCPT Legislative Program contains the resolve to “educate the people as to actual size restriction, pertaining to automobile seat belt usage for children” (83-8); and
- WHEREAS, The WCPT successfully urged legislators to adopt a Safety Belt Law requiring all persons in Wisconsin to “buckle up” (86-5); and
- WHEREAS, Children 12 and under, in front seats are at risk of death or severe injury from passenger-side airbags; and
- WHEREAS, Statistics show that since 1993 at least 28 children and infants have been killed by airbags (Our Children Jan/Feb 1997); and
- WHEREAS, Many vehicles contain single and/or dual airbags in the front seat, and by 1998, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all newly manufactured cars will have dual airbags; and
- WHEREAS, A coalition of auto and insurance companies, safety equipment manufacturers and government agencies have joined in a public information campaign to urge motorists to keep young children safely secured in the back seat away from the airbags; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT shall support efforts to disseminate information about the dangers of placing children in the front seat of vehicles equipped with dual airbags; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT shall continue to support legislative activity and educational programs that will encourage the appropriate use of child restraint systems (such as seat belts, etc.); AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be considered at the 1998 National PTA Convention.

Submitted by: The Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors

98-1 SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY

- WHEREAS, New schools are built and formerly closed schools are reopened in areas unaccustomed to student traffic; and
- WHEREAS, Streets and/or thoroughfares must be used and crossed by students of varied ages to gain access to new, reopened or existing schools. In 1996, of those students between the ages of five (5) and fourteen (14), killed or injured in pedestrian accidents, 69.1% were crossing, entering, or walking in a roadway; and
- WHEREAS, Wisconsin PTA (WCPT) is committed to the safety of children and youth; and THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT, its local units and councils, encourage legislation requiring traffic studies be performed prior to the opening of any school; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That traffic studies in school areas also be performed at any time traffic patterns or attendance populations have changed for any reason; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That information discerned from traffic studies be used to determine the safety needs that would include, but not be limited to provisions for crossing guards, stop signs, flashing stoplights, passing lanes, turning lanes, and/or 3-way traffic lights for the safe passage of all students and pedestrians to school property.

98-2 DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

- WHEREAS, “Lack of discipline’ and “fighting, violence, and gangs” were cited by the public as the “biggest problem” facing local schools; and
- WHEREAS, Parents, teachers, students, and school administrators agree that safe and violence-free schools are a necessity for serious learning and effective teaching; and
- WHEREAS, A small number of disruptive students can undermine quality educational experiences for all our children and youth; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT supports a school district Discipline Code of Conduct and review process that is developed by a committee which includes parents, teachers, and other community members and which reflects the diversity of the community. The Discipline Code of Conduct shall contain the Following criteria:
- A timely notification if the Discipline Code of Conduct prior to implementation,
 - An understanding of the Discipline Code of Conduct and an agreement to abide by it, by the students, parents, community members and educators,
 - The right of teachers to remove a pupil from the classroom if the pupil has violated the established Discipline Code of Conduct,
 - A prompt parent/guardian notification of disciplinary action,
 - A timely review process to ensure the student’s continued education,
 - The placement of the removed student in an appropriate educational Setting,
 - Any state mandated program relating to student removal be accompanied by a provision for adequate finding; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT supports the development of a statewide model of a Discipline Code of Conduct and review process that would be used by local school districts in the absence of a locally developed Discipline Code of Conduct and review process; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT urges all local PTA/PTSA members to encourage the development of a school district Discipline Code of Conduct and review process within their school district.

98-3 EQUITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- WHEREAS, Public education is the responsibility of the state, and appropriate funding is required to ensure that educational programs are secure; and
- WHEREAS, The state legislature determines the actual amount of revenue provided to local school districts; and
- WHEREAS, The per pupil revenue limit, imposed in 1993 and made permanent in 1995, eliminates local school district control of their educational budget; and
- WHEREAS, The 1995 school aid formula assists some districts, but disparities in per pupil spending between districts, remains; and
- WHEREAS, The 1995 school aid formula plan creates a three-tiered funding system by bringing all districts, even the very wealthy districts, into the general school aid formula which works against the interest of most districts; and
- WHEREAS, The 1995 school funding plan has changed the state minimum aid and "equalization" formulas to benefit wealthier school districts; and
- WHEREAS, Districts with high poverty values and low tax rates receive higher amounts of per pupil school levy tax credit than districts with low property wealth and higher tax rates; and THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT supports restoring local control of school district budgets so that levels of educational spending are determined by the needs of the local community; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT opposes inequitable distribution of tax dollars for education that results in major differences in educational opportunities for the children and youth of Wisconsin; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the WCPT urges all PTA/PTSA members 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.

98-4 COMMERCIALISM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS, The Objects of the National PTA include promoting the welfare of children and youth and securing adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin PTA Board Position Statement of October, 1997, states: Wisconsin PTA continues to support adequate funding for public schools to prevent an environment that encourage school districts to engage in the commercialization of our schools; and
- WHEREAS, Susan Herzog, stated in "Selling Out Kids: Commercialism in Public Schools", Our Children, November 1997, p. 6: "The corporate promotion of products and services in the form of supplemental teaching materials, school equipment, or even outright ads in our schools is a decades-old practice that is only becoming more entrenched as overextended school systems try to find nontraditional ways to increase revenues."; and
- WHEREAS, Alex Molnar stated in Giving Kids the Business, 1996, p. 34: "Consumers Union has identified over thirteen major marketing companies specializing in the school market. Firms like Modern Talking Picture Services, Inc., (which became Modern Education Services in 1995) have national reach. Modern advertises that it can "get your product into the hands of the \$81 billion teen market more ways than anyone...in a focused classroom setting."
- WHEREAS, Sheila Harty stated in "U.S. Corporations: Still Pitching After All These Years", Educational Leadership, 1990, pp. 77-78: "If we continue to allow commercial exploitation in the schools, we are partners in the transformation of education from a free marketplace of ideas to a common marketplace of goods." ; and
- WHEREAS, The most vulnerable and captive citizens of our society are being unduly influenced by the subtle, deliberate, and steadily increasing number of commercial messages being placed in our classrooms under the guise of educational enrichment; and
- WHEREAS, Decisions about, but not limited to, curriculum, sporting events, food services, and the operation of our schools are being manipulated by corporate commercial support rather than local school boards focusing in what is best for all children and youth; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That WCPT urges all local PTA/PTSA members to participate in an investigation of the extent of corporate commercialism presently existing or under consideration in their local school district; and BE IT FURTHER

- RESOLVED, That WCPT urges all local PTA/PTSA members to request and participate in the evaluation of existing corporate sponsored materials and promotions and their impact on our children and youth using the same criteria applied to evaluate other support and enrichment programs, projects, and curriculum; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That WCPT encourages all local PTA/PTSA members to participate with their local school board in the development of guidelines governing the use of corporate sponsored materials and promotions; and BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That WCPT urges all local PTA/PTSA members to contact their legislators to express concern over gross commercialization, marketing, and advertising contracts that directly affect our children.

99-1 INDOOR AIR POLLUTION THREATS TO WISCONSIN SCHOOL CHILDREN

- WHEREAS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies of human exposure to air pollution indicate that indoor levels of pollutants may be 2 – 5 times, and occasionally 100 times, greater than outdoor levels, ranking indoor air pollution among the top five environmental risks to public health; AND
- WHEREAS, Children are especially susceptible to air pollution since they breathe a greater volume of air relative to their body weight than adults do causing greater concern for indoor air quality in schools where children usually spend no less than 35 hours a week; AND
- WHEREAS, Poor indoor air quality can have a number of adverse effects such as cough, eye irritation, headaches, allergic reactions, severe asthma attacks, the spread of airborne infectious diseases, Legionnaire’s disease and carbon monoxide poisoning, all of which can ultimately result in an unfavorable learning environment, a high rate of absenteeism and an increased likelihood that schools will have to be closed temporarily or permanently or occupants relocated temporarily or permanently; AND
- WHEREAS, Good indoor air quality contributes to a favorable learning environment for students and productivity for teachers and staff which combined, assist the school in its mission to educate children; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That local PTAs throughout the State of Wisconsin assist school officials in understanding and monitoring the four basic factors that influence indoor air quality in their schools:
- sources of indoor air pollutants
 - heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems
 - pollutant pathways, and
 - building occupants (the nature of the people who spend time in the building and their susceptibilities) and occupancy (the number of occupants per square foot of floor space)
- in order to identify, resolve and prevent indoor air quality problems within their building; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA continues to advocate for the health and safety of our children be addressing the above concerns 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.

99-2 COUNTABILITY FOR PUBLICALLY FUNDED EDUCATION

- WHEREAS, All children must have an opportunity to achieve academically at the highest level, become responsible citizens and attain economic self-sufficiency; AND
- WHEREAS, There are existing standards and state statutes in place to provide accountability for school districts that received taxpayer-provided funding; AND
- WHEREAS, All schools that received public taxpayer provided funds must be accessible to and afford all students the same rights; AND
- WHEREAS, All public schools must be open to all students, adhere to federal and state laws that protect the health and safety of children, be accommodated to local school boards in the district where they are located, and ensure that staff members are certified for their positions; AND THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That 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, religious, national origin ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or disorder; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That 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.

99-3 BICYCLE HELMET SAFETY

- WHEREAS, Bicycle injury rates are highest for persons under the age of fourteen,
AND
- WHEREAS, Children in the United States are injured and killed each year riding
bicycles without bicycle helmet protection; AND
- WHEREAS, The most common cause of death and disability from bicycle accidents is
head injury; AND
- WHEREAS, Bicycle helmets substantially reduce the risk of head injury in an accident;
THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA encourage local units to offer low cost bicycle helmet
programs and bicycle helmet education to all children; AND BE IT
FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA encourage local units to examine existing school and
school district policies and work with school officials to have a helmet
policy for children riding bicycles to school; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA encourage its local units to seek implementation of
bicycle safety laws with local and state political leaders.

99-3 PESTICIDE THREATS TO WISCONSIN SCHOOL CHILDREN

- WHEREAS, Children consume oxygen, food and water at a greater rate per unit of body weight than adults do, and their body tissues more readily absorb harmful substances, including pesticides, increasing the amount that enters their body; AND
- WHEREAS, Children's systems are still developing and are therefore more susceptible to toxic substances, including pesticides, which adversely affect their growth, the development of their nervous systems and the effectiveness of their immune systems; AND
- WHEREAS, Children engage in activities that increase their risk of exposure to pesticides through inhalation, ingestion or contact with the skin because of their close proximity to potentially contaminated soil, grass and carpeting and their propensity to put their hands and other objects in the mouths; AND
- WHEREAS, Children usually spend no less than 35 hours a week in the school environment where they can be exposed to environmental toxins including pesticides for extended periods of time; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That local PTA units throughout the State of Wisconsin familiarize themselves with pesticide use practices and policies in and around their school buildings and in and around their school districts; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That local PTAs discourage the use of pesticides in and around their school districts in favor of adopting, monitoring and enforcing Integrated Pest Management policies. Integrated Pest Management is a comprehensive approach to pest control that emphasizes pest monitoring and biological and least toxic control of pests; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA continues to advocate for the health and safety of our children by addressing the above concerns and by strongly encouraging their elected officials to pass laws mandating that Integrated Pest Management policies be adopted and implemented by school districts statewide.

99-5 REVENUE CAPS

- WHEREAS, Wisconsin PTA has resolutions supporting the fair and equitable funding of public education; AND
- WHEREAS, The Governor and Legislature of our State of Wisconsin put a Revenue Cap on each and every local school district in Wisconsin starting with the school year 1993-94 to limit local school boards in their authority to levy money for local public schools; AND
- WHEREAS, The Revenue Cap does not allow local school districts to keep pace with basic underlying costs; AND
- WHEREAS, Unfunded mandates from state and federal governments continue to increase; AND
- WHEREAS, An absence of funding based on the needs of students persists with our recognition of the diversity of needs among local school districts; AND
- WHEREAS, School Districts which fail to levy to the maximum amount are penalized because un-levied dollars cannot be fully recovered in future years;
- THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA encourages and supports legislative efforts to increase the amount of revenue available to schools and/or eliminate revenue caps imposed upon schools; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA networks with all interested local units, councils and other groups to inform them of the impact revenue caps have on quality of education.

2000-1 SEX OFFENDER AND SCHOOL SAFETY

- WHEREAS, There are currently approximately 11,000 registered sex offenders in Wisconsin, many of whom are repeat offenders; AND
- WHEREAS, Only 2% of the offenders fall under the community notification law, AND
- WHEREAS, Convicted sex offenders have been released to their homes and/or workplaces that may be in close proximity to schools; AND
- WHEREAS, Not all school districts and communities have policies and/or ordinances for the notification of parents/guardians regarding released sex offenders; AND
- WHEREAS, Wisconsin PTA is committed to the safety of children and youth; AND
- THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA will encourage local units and councils to work with local school boards, government and 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; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA will encourage local units and councils work with local school boards, government and law enforcement agencies to protect school children from convicted sex offenders by creating and implementing policies, ordinances and/or programming.

2000 – 2 PROMOTING A SAFE SCHOOL CULTURE

- WHEREAS, Students in school are vulnerable to the pressures and problems of the society in which they live; AND
- WHEREAS, The failure to address problems experienced by young children may result in violent behavior; AND
- WHEREAS, Bullying and other anti-social behaviors are significant school-related problems that contribute to youth disenfranchisement; AND
- WHEREAS, Violence portrayed in media and entertainment contributes to violent acts; AND
- Whereas, Research studies have shown that 75% or more of high school students surveyed report the lack of positive adult role model, a caring school climate, or being valued by their community; AND
- WHEREAS, Students benefit from positive ongoing relationships with adults; AND
- WHEREAS, Children and youth benefit from collaboration between family, schools, social services, courts, and other community agencies; AND
- WHEREAS, Economic demands and budget constraints cause tension as districts are forced to choose between academics and student-centered programs that enhanced the developments of our children; AND THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, local units and councils vigorously encourage and support parent and community involvement in early childhood programs, elementary, middle, and high schools; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, local units and councils raise awareness of the effects of violence in media and entertainment; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, local units and councils continue to provide resources and adult education for developing the skills needed in relating to children and youth; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, local units and councils urge the legislature to revise laws, and regulations that apply to social services in order to provide seamless, multi-agency services for children and youth; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, local units and councils urge the legislature to make additional monies available outside of the revenue caps for school districts to provide comprehensive programs for safe schools.

**RESOLUTIONS WERE
BROUGHT FORTH IN 2001.**

2002-1 PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- WHEREAS, National PTA Position Statement on Parent/Family Involvement states, “Parent Involvement is the participation of parents in every facet of the education and development of children from birth to adulthood. Parent involvement takes many forms, including parents as first educators, as decision makers about children’s education, health, and welfare, as well as advocates for children’s success. It is recognized that parents are the primary influence in their children’s lives”;
- AND
- WHEREAS, Other adults may carry the primary responsibility for a child’s education development and well being, therefore, National PTA includes any primary caregiver or adult who plays an important role in the child’s family life in references to “parent”;
- AND
- WHEREAS, an abundance of research proves that when parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background or the parent’s education level;
- AND
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Standards for A Teacher Development and Licensure Standard #10 states, “Teachers are connected with other teachers and the community. The teacher fosters relationships with school colleagues, parents and agencies in the larger community to support pupil learning and well-being and acts with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner”;
- AND
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Standards for Administrator Development and Licensure Standard #5 states, “The administrator models collaboration with families and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs and mobilizing community resources”;
- AND
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Standards for Pupil Services Development and Licensure Standard #7 states, “The pupil services professional interacts successfully with pupils, parents, professional educators, employees and community support system such as juvenile justice, public health, human services and adult education”;
- AND
- WHEREAS, National PTA states in the publication *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs*, ‘different types of parent/family

involvement produce different gains. To have long-lasting gains for students, parents involvement activities must be well planned, inclusive and comprehensive”; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of parent involvement program in each school, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for the adoption of policies within the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that will lead to the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program in each school, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for legislation that will support a comprehensive parent involvement policy in the State of Wisconsin, and make resources available to support the policy; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for a comprehensive and coordinated parent involvement policy that includes, but is not limited to the following components of successful parent involvement programs,

- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful
- Responsible parenting is promoted and supported
- Parents play an integral role in assisting students learning
- Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought
- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families
- Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning; AND BE IT

FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for the implementation of educational opportunities for teacher candidates to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Wisconsin PTA and all affiliate members advocate for professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies.

2002 – 2 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TESTS

- WHEREAS, the National PTA position statement acknowledges that a single test may not be the best measure of a student's ability; AND
- WHEREAS, the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors believe that admissions criteria for the Wisconsin University System should be applied to all applicants equally, regardless of the student's state of residence; AND
- WHEREAS, the High School Graduation Test (HSGT) will only be administered to public high school students in the State of Wisconsin; AND
- WHEREAS, the Wisconsin PTA Board of Directors has adopted a position statement supporting this resolution; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin PTA opposes the use of the High School Graduation Test (HSGT) as a criterion for admission to the University of Wisconsin System which will result in holding applicants who are Wisconsin public high school students to a different standard than other applicants; AND THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin PTA disseminate information about the use of the High School Graduation Test (HSGT) and possible implications thereof.

2002-3 FUNDING OF MANDATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS, educational programs in Wisconsin have had reductions in funding including English as a second language, which is currently funded at 17% compared to the state's commitment to fund 70%, special education, which is funded as 32% compared to the state's commitment to fund 65% teacher licensure (P134) and high school graduation test, which are currently un-funded, and other programs which are in the process of development or implementation and are currently un-funded or under-funded; AND
- WHEREAS, the Wisconsin PTA is committed to supporting local control of school budgets so that educational spending is determined by the needs of the community; AND
- WHEREAS, un-funded and under-funded mandated education programs erode local control and impose hardships on school districts; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin PTA encourages and supports legislative efforts to assure that all mandated educational programs are fully funded by the mandating body and that the Wisconsin PTA opposes any action that would result in reduced or insufficient funding for established or new mandated educational programs; THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, that members of the Wisconsin PTA contact the Governor and members of the Legislature to oppose un-funded and under-funded mandated educational initiatives, policies and programs.

2002-4 SCHOOL FUNDING BASED ON STUDENT NEEDS

- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled that Wisconsin Students have a fundamental right to an equal opportunity for a sound basic education that will equip them for their roles as citizens and enable them to succeed economically and personally; AND
- WHEREAS, The Wisconsin legislature has established a standard for equal opportunity for a sound basic education as the opportunity for students to be proficient in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history, and for them to receive instruction in the arts and music, vocational training, social science, physical education and foreign language; AND
- WHEREAS, Current funding of Wisconsin's K-12 educational system fails to provide every school with adequate resources to ensure students a chance of meeting these standards; AND
- WHEREAS, The extraordinary complexity of the Wisconsin school finance system precludes meaningful school funding reform and adjustments to the current formulas have resulted in negative, unintended and unforeseen consequences; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA members advocate for comprehensive school funding reform; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That Wisconsin PTA, through its members, work for the establishment and implementation of a school funding system based in the needs of students; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED; That Wisconsin PTA encourage 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 student.

2002-5 KEEP WISCONSIN TOBACCO PREVENTION ENDOWMENT INTACT

- WHEREAS, The State of Wisconsin Lawmakers are concerned that the budget will be \$1.1 billion dollars out of balance. Wisconsin's Constitution demands a balanced budget. Any imbalance will require lawmakers to return to Madison to retool the budget passed September 2001, into a balanced budget. This will likely mean cuts to current programs and could mean a raiding of the \$470 million dollar tobacco prevention endowment; AND
- WHEREAS, In 1998, Wisconsin cashed its first annual payment from the tobacco industry – money compensating the state for years of death and taxpayer expense. In 2001, lawmakers agreed to cash in the next 30 year's payment in exchange for \$1.3 billion in cash today; AND
- WHEREAS, The State lawmakers saved \$470 million of that money in an endowment that will pay for anti-tobacco education. But, with the ink barely dry on the state budget, Wisconsin's finances are again out of balance – and there's talk of spending away the endowment in a desperate effort to postpone confronting the state's painful budget dilemma; AND
- WHEREAS, If lawmakers move to spend the tobacco endowment Wisconsin's short-term budget crisis becomes a long term disaster. If we spend the tobacco prevention endowment, we'll have consumed 25 years of tobacco settlement payments to balance one single two year budget; AND
- WHEREAS, Without the tobacco prevention endowment, the state will have no guaranteed source of funding for efforts to cut tobacco use. As it stands, beginning in 2003, the first \$25 million dollars of interest from the endowment will be allocated to the Wisconsin State Tobacco Control Board. That investment is the key to helping our kids free themselves of an addiction that is killing their parents and grandparents. Currently, thirty-two percent of Wisconsin teens smoke, one of the highest rates in the nation; AND
- WHEREAS, The mission of the Wisconsin State Tobacco Control Board is to aggressively pursue the elimination of tobacco use by partnering with communities to prevent tobacco use among youth, promote cessation and eliminate secondhand smoke. This mission will be achieved through comprehensive state and local efforts that utilize best practices and address the needs of diverse populations most adversely impacted by tobacco use; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA through its constituent bodies increase public awareness of the tobacco prevention endowment and the purpose of those dollars; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA support new and ongoing programs geared at preventing youth from ever starting to smoke; AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA opposes efforts to use tobacco prevention endowment funds for purposes other than those originally intended.

2002-6 REDUCE YOUTH SMOKING

- WHEREAS, Every year over 26,000 Wisconsin children become addicted to tobacco of whom more than one-third will die prematurely because of this addiction; AND
- WHEREAS, Increasing Wisconsin's excise tax on cigarettes would significantly reduce the number of children who become addicted to tobacco, save over a billion in health care costs, and provide hundreds of millions of dollars per year in additional state revenues; AND THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA support:
- Increasing the Wisconsin excise tax on cigarette; and
 - Using money raised by this excise tax to
 - (1) assure that Wisconsin has a comprehensive program to reduce tobacco use that follows and is funded within the Center for Disease Control best practice guidelines;
 - (2) fund other state programs that will advance the health, education, and general welfare of Wisconsin youth and adults; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA will inform local unit and council members and the general public about the position taken in this resolution; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA will inform the Governor and members of the Legislature about the position taken in this resolution.

2003-01 ESTABLISHMENT, REGULATION, AND FUNDING OF VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the increase in the use of computer technology has become widespread in The State of Wisconsin and in the nation, leading to greater student access to computers in the schools;

AND

WHEREAS, Virtual Schools have been established in neighboring states and within the state of Wisconsin, offering programs to students in Wisconsin and an network of program vendors has been created;

AND

WHEREAS, the programs of study offered by Virtual Schools to students in Wisconsin have not been formally assessed by the Department of Public Instruction for conformation with state and national education standards;

AND

WHEREAS, the establishment of local Virtual Schools under the present educational funding program in the State of Wisconsin could lead to a flow of state aid dollars out of districts that do not establish a Virtual School, possibly creating a greater inequity in the funding of schools in Wisconsin;

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WIPTA) supports and encourages the establishment of formal state standards for Virtual Schools by the Department of Public Instruction, including creation of criteria for the accreditation of course work offered via any e-learning method;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that WIPTA 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;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that WIPTA 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.

2003-2 ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN MOVING VEHICLES

- WHEREAS** cell phones are owned and used by over one-half of the population; and
- WHEREAS** over 60% of cell phone owners and operators use cell phones while driving and
- WHEREAS** motorists using cell phones are four times more likely to be involved in accidents than motorists not so involved; and
- WHEREAS** it has been further determined that being distracted while driving leads to an increase in motor vehicle accidents; and
- WHEREAS** research has established that manual manipulation of equipment has a negative impact on driving. Therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin PTA encourage 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. Be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin PTA encourage 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. Be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin PTA encourage 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. Be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin PTA support 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.

**2003-03 AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) AND CARDIOPULMONARY
RESUSCITAION (CPR) EDUCATION**

- WHEREAS, Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; AND
- WHEREAS, 250,000 Americans die each year of sudden cardiac arrest; AND
- WHEREAS, The American Heart Association estimates that the lives of 50,000 cardiac arrest victims could be saved each year through a course of action known as the “chain of survival”; AND
- WHEREAS, The “chain of survival” includes immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), early access to 911 responders, rapid use of and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and early advanced medical care; AND
- WHEREAS, An important part of United States school children’s education is learning healthy behaviors, including proper nutrition and physical activity. This health education should also include basic emergency lifesaving skills; AND
- WHEREAS, Incorporating these lifesaving training programs into the health curriculums of schools will give children these skills; AND
- WHEREAS, Project ADAM (Automatic Defibrillators in Adam’s Memory), developed by Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, ahs been successful in fostering awareness of the potential encouraging improvement of screening procedures and facilitating the training of high school staff and students in CPR and the use of AEDs; THERFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA urges the Department of Public Instruction to support education curriculums to include training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillators (AED); AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA encourages all school districts to provide and individual certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) at its school, school’s sporting events; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA encourages all school district staff, including Administration, Teachers, school coaches and referees be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillators; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA encourage all high school students be certified in basic life support before they graduate; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA encourages local units and councils to reach out and form community partnerships with and among public and private organizations for developing resources for education, the purchasing of

equipment and teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and External Defibrillators (AED) in schools;

AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin PTA promotes awareness and education for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and External Defibrillators (AED) through newsletter articles and workshops at convention.

2004-01 CHILDHOOD OBESITY

- WHEREAS** Childhood obesity has become a growing major epidemic in today's society with 15% of all children considered obese; **AND**
- WHEREAS** cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and low metabolic rate are some of the major common health problems resulting from this epidemic along with emotional consequences; **AND**
- WHEREAS** some of the contributing factors are genetics, environmental influences, unhealthy eating patterns, and lack of exercise;
AND THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports increasing public awareness about childhood obesity and understanding the problems resulting from it;
AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED** that the WCPT supports programs that promote healthful behaviors including ,but not limited to: healthy eating, regular exercise through a positive home, school and playground environment, and encourage parents, guardians and students to seek medical intervention when appropriate to help combat and prevent this problem;
AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED** that the WCPT, encourages education about obesity prevention, nutrition and the importance of healthy eating, the consequences of sedentary activities, and the benefits of regular physical fitness;
AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED** that the WCPT will inform all of its members, the WI Department of Public Instruction, the State Legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2004–02 INHALANT ABUSE

- WHEREAS** The misuse and abuse of legal, everyday products to “get high” is a silent epidemic; **AND**
- WHEREAS** One in five eighth graders has “sniffed” or “huffed” an inhalant at the risk of brain damage and even death; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Over one million youth have experimented with inhalants; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Young people can “get high” on more than 1,000 legal, useful, everyday products; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Inhalant use can cause long-term physical and psychological damage and even death; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Inhalant abuse efforts are now being linked to broader issues of poison control; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Identifying poisonous/dangerous household substances with a “Mr. Yuk” sticker is a childhood memory for many of us; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Identifying substances with “Mr. Yuk” stickers gives children and parents a way to talk about things that are dangerous and must be stayed away from because they may hurt you;
- THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) through its constituent bodies increase public awareness of Inhalant Abuse through, but not limited to, newsletter articles, website articles and convention workshops;
- AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT support new and ongoing programs geared at promoting the awareness of and the dangers of Inhalant Abuse among our youth;
- AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT explores forming partnerships with the Wisconsin Inhalant Prevention Coalition, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and other organizations in an effort to increase awareness, educate and identify and label poisonous/dangerous household substances through a program such as or similar to the “Mr. Yuk” stickers.

**2004 – 03 CONCEALED WEAPONS
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

- WHEREAS** the Wisconsin State Supreme Court has ruled that prohibiting concealed weapons is a valid restriction, affirming the state law in place since 1874, which prohibits carrying hidden, loaded handguns and which they have said “serves many valuable purposes in promoting public safety.”; and
- WHEREAS** legislation has recently been introduced to both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly which would allow individuals to carry concealed weapons, defined as a handgun, a stun gun, a tear gas gun, a knife other than a switchblade, or a billy club, anywhere in the state except for those limited and particular places specified in the bill; and
- WHEREAS** studies have shown that gunfire kills more children and youth than all natural causes combined and more than one half of all murders, intentional or unintentional, are committed with guns; and
- WHEREAS** polling, including that done by the University of Wisconsin, has shown that less than one in five adults in Wisconsin favor allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons. **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** 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; and **BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** that the WCPT affirms the Second Amendment rights of the people of Wisconsin to hold and bear arms for hunting and sporting, and; **BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** that the WCPT and its constituent bodies shall disseminate information about the dangers of concealed weapons.

**No Resolutions were
Brought forward in
2005**

**2006-1 KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE AND HEALTHY IN SCHOOLS
(Resolution on School Nurses)**

- WHEREAS,** every student learns best when at optimal health and the professional registered school nurse is a vital part of ensuring the optimum health and well-being of these students and staff by offering health information, health instruction, emergency care and quality health services; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Wisconsin had the equivalent of 315 full time professional school nurses for a ratio of 1:2,713 students in the 2004/2005 school year, and the recommended ratio by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is 1:750; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** research/data shows that school districts with adequate nursing coverage have fewer absences, fewer students being sent home, a decreased dropout rate and higher test scores; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** 18% of all visits to school health rooms are by students enrolled in special education, and a 1999 U.S. Supreme court ruling requires school districts to provide needed nursing services for all students with disabilities in order to benefit from their educational program. Title 5 funds from ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) are already available to be used to fund school nursing services along with federal funds through NCLB (No Child Left Behind) initiatives; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** that the Wisconsin Congress of Parent and Teachers (WCPT) encourage local units to disseminate information to their school communities and municipalities regarding nursing services in each school district and the implications for the lack of those services; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** that WCPT advocate for legislation that would assure school districts can meet the recommended student to nurse ratio by providing the necessary funding.

2006-2 CONSTITUTIONAL REVENUE LIMITS

- WHEREAS,** there is a plan to impose revenue limits on all levels of government and education through a constitutional amendment; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** a similar amendment called the Taxpayers Bill of Rights also known as TABOR passed in Colorado twelve years ago was recently repudiated by voters because of its negative impact on schools, essential local public services and the economy; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** revenue limits have already proven to be inadequate for public schools and a serious infringement on local control; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** **more comprehensive revenue limits will further damage public schools as well as prevent local units of government from meeting public service needs and requirements that impact children. THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** **that Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourages State Legislators to vote against constitutional amendments that would further limit educational funding and therefore lead to a decline in educational quality, AND; BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** the WCPT promotes local control by local elected officials with regard to decisions that affect education and local government, **AND; BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** that the WCPT educates local PTAs about the effects that TABOR and similar legislation has on public education and at the same time re-emphasize the WCPT's opposition to any action that would result in insufficient funding for mandated educational programs, **AND, BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** that the WCPT will work closely with other Wisconsin organizations in a concerted effort to prevent the passage of these types of constitutional amendments and/or inform our members, State Legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2006-3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

- WHEREAS,** No Child Left Behind (NCLB) holds schools accountable for the performance of all students, including English Language Learner (ELL) students; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** English Language Learners are the most rapidly growing population in US Schools; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** a critical key to any students success is the ability to draw on their own background, experiences, cultures and languages; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** by the year 2014, 100% proficiency will be required by all students in all schools; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourages additional categorical funding that would accommodate the unique needs of all English Language Learner students, **AND; BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** that WCPT work to educate its members, educators and legislators of the special challenges English Language Learner students face in this mandated testing process.

2007-1 CELLULAR PHONE USAGE

- WHEREAS** Cellular phone technology has progressed to include the ability to take and transmit photos, allow access to the Internet and an instant availability of non-verbal communications; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Basic etiquette demands that classroom activities allow each student to study, learn, and grow academically without interruption from fellow students, staff or outside interference: **AND**
- WHEREAS** Oral and written examinations, tests and/or quizzes are used to test the academic growth and maturation of an individual student's progress in given academic situations; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) and its constituent organizations will encourage school boards to institute policies that will prohibit the use of cell phones, during class time, in all schools; and **BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT and its constituent organizations support individual school and school district policies that would ban the use of all cell phones during extra-curricular assemblies taking place on school grounds or in school facilities during the school day; and **BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT supports reasonable consequences in enforcing these policies and will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, State Legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2007-2 CHARTER SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS** Charter schools are public, nonsectarian schools created through a like contract or "charter" between the operators and a school district or other chartering authorities; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Charter schools have freedom from most state rules, regulations and policies along with being supported in part by public funds; **AND**
- WHEREAS** The chartering authority holds the school accountable to its charter for student performance, financial matters and effective school operations. **THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports charter schools being operated only under proven and qualified educational authorities; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** 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; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction closely monitor the impact that charter schools have on our public education systems in all aspects; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, State Legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2007-3 CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- WHEREAS** Wisconsin PTA recognizes that America is a diverse society in which educational differences have the potential to become a progressively larger source of inequality and social conflict; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Research has shown that the blame is not poverty, single-parent homes, or income-but not providing all children the same high quality educational resources to succeed; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Involvement of parents and the community in the decision-making process will help to close the achievement gap; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Wisconsin PTA recognizes that providing all children an academic curriculum in the basic core subjects would help to close the achievement gap; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Wisconsin PTA recognizes that increasing instructional time increases achievement, exposing all children to a rigorous curriculum based on state standards, and exposing all children, particularly those of color, to high-level academic skills that are necessary to perform at high levels that would close the achievement gap; **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** 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; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin PTA will work with other educational organizations and institutions, such as, Wisconsin Educational Association Council (WEAC), Wisconsin Association School Boards (WASB), Metropolitan Milwaukee Alliance of Black School Educators (MMABSE), Association Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and individual school districts to close the achievement gap; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin PTA will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, elected officials, the media, and the general public about the position taken on Closing the Achievement Gap.

**2007-4 CERVICAL CANCER (Human Papillomavirus) VACCINATION
EMERGENCY RESOLUTION**

- WHEREAS** Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections that affects about 50% of the sexually active population; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Some HPV types such as type 16 & 18 are known to develop into about 70% of cervical cancers and types 6 & 11 are known to develop into about 90% of genital warts: **AND**
- WHEREAS** A 3-part series vaccine has been developed to prevent these particular types of HPV and has been approved and recommended for all pre-sexually active females 9-26 years of age; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) opposes mandatory cervical cancer vaccinations being implemented to children while further research is being completed; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT encourages parents and guardians to make informed decisions about their children's vaccinations, health care and all around well being; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT supports the use of proven vaccinations to prevent disease and illness along with supporting new and continuing research on all vaccinations in regards to their benefits, effectiveness and limitations; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT will educate and inform its members, educators, general public and advocate legislators accordingly to the position taken in this resolution.

2008-01 EDUCATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

- WHEREAS** Appropriate education opportunities are essential to the development of the potential of all children; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Gifted and talented children are denied equitable educational opportunity when educational programming and support services appropriate to their abilities are not available; **AND**
- WHEREAS** School districts need the resources that can best be provided at the state level to establish and support services for gifted and talented children; **THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) shall exhort the State of Wisconsin and local school districts to meet their obligations to gifted and talented children through services that will develop their gifts and talents for the benefit of both themselves and their community; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT exhorts the State of Wisconsin to provide funding sufficient to create and maintain services to gifted and talented students; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT exhorts school districts not to sacrifice services that benefit gifted and talented children due to budget shortfalls; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, school districts, State Legislators and the general public about the positions taken in this resolution.

2008-2 LOCAL FOOD PURCHASES FOR SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS** Parents and teachers across Wisconsin are concerned with the health of all children and the nutritional value of food and snacks provided in Wisconsin's public schools, **AND**
- WHEREAS** On the average, the distance food travels from producer to consumer in the United States is substantial; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Locally purchased foods travel short distances and tend to be very fresh and wholesome, **AND**
- WHEREAS** The purchase of fresh foods contributes to the local economies of the communities that support our schools, **AND**
- WHEREAS** School districts develop Wellness Policies to address, in part, the nutritional value of meals and snacks provided by the district's schools. **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports 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. **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT would encourage local food purchase options in schools and affiliated school groups; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, State Legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2008-03 TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR EDUCATORS

- WHEREAS** Funding for education continues to reach crisis levels causing certain educational expenses to fall upon non-traditional avenues that include educators; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Educators (Teachers, Instructors, Counselors, Principals and Aides) in Wisconsin are not allowed to deduct from their individual state income taxes educational materials and/or supplies that are personally purchased for classroom use in public, private, tribal or charter schools; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports educator (Teachers, Instructors, Counselors, Principals and Aides) tax deductions on educational materials/supplies they personally purchase for classroom use; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the WCPT encourage Wisconsin legislators to pass legislation that would allow these tax deductions and would provide adequate funding for Wisconsin schools.

2009-1 IDEA UNDERFUNDING

- WHEREAS** Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) advocates for a quality public education for every child, and believes that it is essential for public resources to adequately fund all mandated programs; **AND**
- WHEREAS** The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), adopted in 1975, specified that by 1982 the federal government would provide a maximum allotment per disabled child served of 40% of the national average per pupil expenditure, however, since 1975 Congress has never appropriated more than 18% of these costs; **AND**
- WHEREAS** Wisconsin school districts are required to provide services as defined in IDEA, and the 22% of the allotment not currently funded with federal funds must be paid for out of the general funds of the school district; **AND**
- WHEREAS** With state and federal cuts to education budgets, and increasing costs, this added expense limits the ability of school districts to provide the best education for all students; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT), its units, councils and members advocate for funding by the federal government at the maximum allotment of 40% for mandated IDEA program costs; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will work to educate and/or inform its members, educators, legislators and the general public about the position taken in this resolution.

2009-2 ECOFRIENDLY “GREEN” SCHOOLS

WHEREAS Schools and school districts have the potential to make positive, tangible environmental changes in the world while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth and its resources; **AND**

WHEREAS Many schools and school districts suffer from inadequate facilities that frequently use energy, water and other resources inefficiently or unsustainably; **AND**

WHEREAS Schools and school districts are important consumers of natural resources, including energy, water, food, and paper, and generators of waste materials, including garbage, runoff, and air emissions, which contribute to the world’s larger environmental problems like global warming, water and air pollution, and habitat destruction.

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) supports the existing and future efforts towards healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That WCPT encourages schools and school districts to make eco-friendly facility improvements and use environmentally friendly consumer products; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That WCPT encourages schools and school districts to teach and model environmental responsibility; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That WCPT educates and informs its members, educators, general public and advocates legislators accordingly to the position taken in this resolution.

2009-3 THE NEXT 100 YEARS

- WHEREAS** Wisconsin Branch of the National Congress of Mothers received its charter on June 7, 1910, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a result of the efforts of founder Agnes Betts and its first president, Mrs. R.J. Sullivan, both of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in 1925 was renamed Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) also known as Wisconsin PTA, **AND**
- WHEREAS** The issues that were prevalent during that time were kindergarten, immunizations, kids going to the movies alone, appropriate music, and teacher certification to name a few, **AND**
- WHEREAS** Issues that have continued over the years has been safety on school buses, school lunches, fair teacher wages, cell phones, high stakes testing, and school funding to name a few, **AND**
- WHEREAS** One hundred years later WCPT continues to have that same commitment to all children and youth; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) will further its commitment to the health, education, and welfare of all children and youth and to make every child's potential a reality; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will strengthen family and community involvement, increase the number of parent leaders throughout the state and be a strong resource for its local units; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will continue to strive toward inclusiveness throughout the state; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will continue its legislative agendas with all elected officials in the state of Wisconsin and Washington D.C.; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will continue the mission of PTA: A powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That WCPT will continue to plant the seeds of success and take the road that leads to endless possibilities for the next 100 years.

2010-1 ENERGY DRINKS

- Whereas,** Energy Drinks have been steadily growing in popularity amongst children and teenagers; **and**
- Whereas,** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does regulate the amount of caffeine in sodas; it does not regulate the amount of caffeine in Energy Drinks; **and**
- Whereas,** caffeine can cause several health issues including: Nervousness or Agitation, Nausea, Sleep Issues, Increased Heart Rates and Raised Blood Pressure and other serious health issues; **therefore be it**
- Resolved,** that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) encourage restriction of Energy Drink Consumption by children; **and be it further**
- Resolved,** that the WCPT encourage the FDA to adopt regulations on caffeine content of Energy Drinks; **and be it further**
- Resolved,** that the WCPT advocates for the proper labeling of side effects and caffeine content on Energy Drink products; **and be it further**
- Resolved,** that the WCPT will work to educate and/or inform our members, educators, State Legislators and the general public about the dangers and effects of Energy Drink products and the positions taken in this resolution.

2011-1 REMOVING POLLING PLACES FROM SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS One of the purposes of National PTA is to promote safety for children and youth, including the protection of children from violence; AND
- WHEREAS Wisconsin PTA has many resolutions in place to encourage local units and councils to work with legislators to protect children; AND
- WHEREAS Many school buildings in Wisconsin are utilized as polling places during which gymnasiums, auditoriums, and other instructional spaces are often used as polling areas for a full school day which prevents student use and is in direct conflict with National PTA's resolution in support of daily physical education as an integral part of children's education; AND
- WHEREAS School safety and security experts strongly support efforts to remove places from schools, educators work hard throughout the school year to reduce access to school grounds and buildings in an effort to keep students and staff safe, and election day presents security challenges for schools that serve as polling places;
- WHEREAS Wisconsin state statutes do not require the use of public schools as polling places; THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers supports efforts to maintain the safety of staff and students during elections and to utilize school buildings for the instruction of students; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teacher encourages school, election and community officials to find and utilize polling places that are not located in schools.

2013-1 BED-SHARING SAFETY

- WHEREAS** Wisconsin PTA is committed to the health and well-being of all children;
and
- WHEREAS** Co-sleeping is defined as the standard practice of children sleeping with one or more persons, as practiced throughout the world whether it is room-sharing or bed-sharing; **and**
- WHEREAS** Bed-sharing can lead to accidental death of an infant or child; **and**
- WHEREAS** The number of deaths attributed to bed-sharing has risen sharply in recent years; **THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) encourages parents and educators to create more public awareness of the potential dangers of bed-sharing; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations work together with other state and local agencies to create and promote a statewide campaign that will educate parents about the resources available to aid in the prevention of bed-sharing deaths.

2013-2 PERSONAL AUDIO DEVICE “EAR BUD” SAFETY

- WHEREAS the evidence is now documented of irreparable hearing loss through the use of personal audio devices, or “ear buds” and continues to mount; and
- WHEREAS the use of personal audio devices at high volume settings can lead to permanent hearing damage; and
- WHEREAS young people are finding themselves in danger on streets and byways while listening to music; and
- WHEREAS the number of personal music player-wearing pedestrians has tripled in recent years; and
- WHEREAS sensory deprivation through the use of headphones can be a factor in pedestrian accidents; THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED that the Wisconsin PTA encourage standards that would see new audio devices include a maximum sound level default at less than 85 decibels; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) and its constituent associations support efforts to disseminate information about the dangers of using ear buds; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED that Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations endeavor to teach children and youth the safe use of ear buds, and the importance of being aware of their surroundings and obedience to all traffic regulations when using personal audio devices; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED that Wisconsin PTA works with parents and educators to alert them to the potential risk of ear buds where moving vehicles are present; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED that Wisconsin PTA works with city and county governing bodies to encourage, as needed, the use of non-auditory (signage, lights, etc.) safety warning systems in those areas where moving vehicles are present.

2014-01 Heading

- WHEREAS** In recent years, concerns have been raised surrounding concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries sustained in sports and other activities; **and**
- WHEREAS** Numerous repetitions of the soccer move known as “heading” are associated with adverse brain changes comparable to those found in patients with traumatic brain injury; and
- WHEREAS** Multiple studies show that the more “heading” people did, the more likely they were to have abnormalities of brain microstructure;
- THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) encourage local units to examine existing school and school district policies and work with school officials to have protective headgear policies for all children and youth participating in soccer; **AND BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** that Wisconsin PTA encourage local units and councils to seek implementation of protective headgear laws for all children and youth with local and state political leaders.

2015-1 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

- Whereas Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are living organisms whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering (GE), a relatively new science that creates combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods; and
- Whereas common food products, both fresh and commercially prepared, used by families and commercial food services contain GMO ingredients whether or not the products are clearly identified; and
- Whereas various and assorted health concerns are a result of the direct and indirect consumption of GMO foods; THEREFORE, BE IT
- Resolved that the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) and its constituent associations work to educate parents of the dangers of GMOs to the health and well-being of all children and youth; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved that Wisconsin PTA encourage parents to look for the Non-GMO Verified seal on the products purchased for consumption in their homes; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved that Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations work to encourage all commercial food preparers to use only products that are labeled as Non-GMO Verified for service to our children; and BE IT FURTHER
- Resolved that Wisconsin PTA work with its constituent associations to encourage parents, teachers and community members to encourage their favorite brands to participate in ensuring a non-GMO food supply for all children and youth.

2016-1 TANNING BEDS

- WHEREAS Indoor tanning exposes users to two (2) types of UV rays, UVA and UVB which cause damage to the skin that can lead to cancer; with a higher risk of melanoma among those who begin tanning at an earlier age; and
- WHEREAS more than one million (1,000,000) people use one of the more than 25,000 tanning salons in the United States; and
- WHEREAS in addition to cancer, UVA exposure can lead to vision and immune system problems, wrinkles and premature aging; and
- WHEREAS State and Federal legislation has been enacted to, at a minimum, recommend warnings regarding the use of indoor tanning facilities;
THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED That Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (Wisconsin PTA) and its constituent associations inform parents, educators and students of the dangers of indoor tanning; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations encourage the American Cancer Society's "Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!"* slogan be included in all Health curriculums; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations support all recommendations that minors should not use indoor tanning equipment;
AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations work with advertisers and marketers to ensure that no person or facility advertise the use of any UVA or UVB tanning device using wording such as "safe," "safe tanning," "no harmful rays," no adverse effects," or similar wording or concepts;
AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED That Wisconsin PTA and its constituent associations urge the FDA and State agencies to take additional action that will prohibit the use of any indoor tanning facilities product by minors under the age of 18 years.

*Slip! Slop! Slap! and Wrap!

Slip on a shirt

Slop on sunscreen

Slap on wide brimmed hat

Wrap on sunglasses

2017-1 DECODING DYSLEXIA

- WHEREAS Dyslexia impacts up to 20% of the population; or approximately 1 in 5 people have a language-based learning disability, AND
- WHEREAS Approximately one million students nationwide and 30,000 students in Wisconsin K-12 public schools display signs or symptoms of dyslexia; many are not “identified.” 80% of children with a “specific learning disability” have dyslexia, the most common learning disability; AND
- WHEREAS Dyslexia affects individuals from all walks of life including those with average and above average intelligence; AND
- WHEREAS Early identification with appropriate reading instruction is important in assisting people with dyslexia be prepared to succeed in school and like. Children who have a slow start in reading rarely catch up on their own, a poor reader in 1st grade will remain a poor reader... 74% of students identified in 3rd grade as reading disabled will remain a poor reader in the 10th grade; AND
- WHEREAS Therapists, tutors and teachers specially trained in multisensory structured language approaches provide effective instruction. People with dyslexia require explicit teaching that is systematic and involves several senses (seeing, hearing, moving and touching) at the same time; AND
- WHEREAS Children with dyslexia, especially those who aren’t identified, can experience poor self-image, anxiety and difficulty with depression. Effects include not being ready to enter college or career, not earning a high school diploma; AND
- WHEREAS Individuals with dyslexia are overrepresented in prison populations, approximately 80% of the current people in prison are functionally illiterate. THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED That the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) acknowledges that dyslexia has significant educational implications that need to be more widely addressed by the public and school districts; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED That the WCPT accepts the following definition of dyslexia which was previously adopted by the Board of Directors of the International Dyslexia Association and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD): “Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the

phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge;" AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT supports teacher/staff training necessary to improve the understanding of dyslexia and its warning signs, to include training in appropriate evidence based structured literacy instruction for students with dyslexia and to promote knowledge of appropriate accommodations for dyslexic students; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT supports early screening for signs and symptoms of dyslexia in early childhood through the third grade with parental notifications; the use of evidence based structured literacy instruction delivered with fidelity as defined by the International Dyslexia Association; and the use of appropriate accommodations in order to provide students with dyslexia equitable access to the general education curriculum; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That the WCPT forwards this resolution to the National PTA for consideration by the delegates at the earliest possible National PTA Convention.

2019.1 ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPE PENS

- WHEREAS, E-cigarette use, commonly referred to as “JUULing” or “vaping”, among youth has been declared an epidemic by the United States Surgeon General, and
- WHEREAS, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that 20% of adolescents use E-cigarettes, and the use of E-cigarettes and vape pens are unsafe for children, teens, and young adults, causing harm to adolescent brain development and causing long term harm to the lungs, and
- WHEREAS, E-cigarettes and/or other Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance that has a negative effect on the developing brains of children and youth, and
- WHEREAS, a single cartridge may contain the nicotine of 20 cigarettes and some users are vaping marijuana and THC through vape pens, and
- WHEREAS, the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey found that 20.8% of high schoolers and 4.9% of middle schoolers used E-cigarettes within 30 days of taking the survey, a 78% and 48% increase respectively over the 2017 survey, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers (WCPT) through its constituent bodies, increase public awareness that ENDS makers are targeting youth through social media with hashtags such as #vapelife, #vapefriends and #vapefam, and are naming vape flavors after popular children’s candies, drinks, and other treats, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that school districts implement programs in all schools to educate students and families about the harmful effects of ENDS and vaping, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the WCPT urge companies to stop marketing ENDS products that are misleading and tempting to youth, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that WCPT advocates working with local law makers to implement ordinances restricting retailers from the sale of ENDS to minors, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that WCPT work with like-minded associations and organizations to develop and enact statewide legislation regulating the sale and distribution of ENDS to minors

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