

# Texas PTA Legislative Resolutions



## 2020

### Safe Neighborhood Resolution

- Whereas, every child in Texas deserves safe neighborhood streets - sidewalks to walk, bike, skate, or roll on, and that are safe to ride on in a car;
- Whereas, parents are often afraid to let children play outside in their own neighborhoods, leading to decreased physical activity, and contributing to Texas' obesity crisis;
- Whereas, car crashes are the leading cause of death for children in Texas;
- Whereas, the Legislature has recognized this serious problem and the Texas Transportation Commission has committed to reducing traffic deaths by half by the year 2035 and ending all traffic fatalities by 2050;
- Whereas, in Texas, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a 100 percent federally funded cost-reimbursement program managed through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Traffic Operations Division (TRF);
- Resolved, that Texas PTA supports a statewide focus on making it safer to get to and from schools by all modes of travel;
- Resolved, that Texas PTA urges local jurisdictions to develop comprehensive Safe Routes to School plans;
- Resolved, that Texas PTA urges the Governor and Legislature to prioritize state funding for transportation safety, including funding dedicated to Safe Routes to School, and other safety interventions.

## 2018

### Crimes against Children

- Resolved that anyone convicted of sexual offenses against children should receive the maximum sentence allowed by law and encourage that the offender should be required to serve the full sentence without the option of parole.
- Resolved that anyone convicted of murdering a child should receive the maximum possible sentence allowed by law and encourage that the offender should be required to serve the sentence without the option of parole.

### Parental Involvement

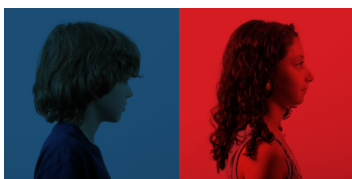
- Resolved that Texas PTA encourage teacher preparation programs to include courses on parental involvement.
- Resolved that Texas PTA request the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to require proficiency in parental involvement for state teacher certification.

### Sexually Oriented Businesses

- Resolved that the Texas PTA encourage and support Local PTAs/PTSAs to work with the government officials and policy makers in their communities to ensure that sexually oriented businesses or signs advertising these businesses are not located within 1,000 feet of residential areas, schools, religious facilities, libraries, recreational facilities, public parks, school activity centers or thoroughfares used regularly by school buses transporting children.

### Summer Food Service

- Resolved that Texas PTA and its constituent bodies encourage school districts to participate in the Summer Food Service Program.



# Texas PTA Legislative Resolutions



## 2016

### Cement Kilns

- Resolved that Texas PTA support state and federal regulations to require all facilities that burn hazardous and toxic wastes and/or tires to meet the same standards regulating commercial hazardous waste incinerator facilities.
- Resolved that Texas PTA support state and federal regulations that require the labeling of all products produced or derived from facilities burning hazardous and toxic wastes and/or tires so that consumers are aware of the composition of the product.
- Resolved that Texas PTA support notification of the public prior to the issuing, renewing, and expanding of permits for these facilities.
- Resolved that Texas PTA support requiring all facilities that burn hazardous and toxic waste and /or tires comply with at least the same regulatory standards as those applied to commercial hazardous waste incinerator facilities (unless these facilities are within a five-mile radius of a school; whereupon, the regulatory standards must be set at levels that are not considered dangerous to the health and safety of children (ages 3 years old and up).
- Resolved that this resolution is local, state, and national in scope, meets the objects of PTA, and should be forwarded to the National PTA Convention Delegates.

### Strong School Libraries

- Resolved that Texas PTA encourages districts to provide highly qualified certified librarians and quality school library programs at every campus.
- Resolved that Texas PTA urges the state of Texas to recognize all districts that provide highly qualified, certified librarians and quality school library programs at every campus.

### Reduction in Childhood Obesity

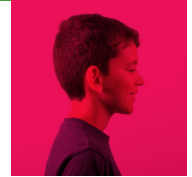
- Resolved that Texas PTA is dedicated to the reduction and prevention of childhood obesity in Texas. Texas PTA will continue to insist on regular physical activity in schools and support efforts to improve the nutritional value of foods and beverages served in schools throughout the state.

### Violence Prevention In Schools

- Resolved that the Texas PTA, its units, councils and districts reaffirm its commitment to the promotion and support of violence prevention in schools and communities.
- Resolved that the Texas PTA encourage its units, councils and districts to promote education of parents, students, teachers and the community in recognizing signs and circumstances that may lead to potential outbursts of violence.
- Resolved that the Texas PTA support efforts to ensure that adequate counseling and other support services are available in the elementary, middle and secondary schools of Texas.
- Resolved that the Texas PTA support measures to improve the ability of school staff to respond to incidents that may occur, and promote the inclusion of violence reduction programs in the elementary, middle and secondary schools.



# Texas PTA Legislative Resolutions



## Fine Arts in The Core Curriculum

- Resolved that Texas PTA supports fine arts in the core curriculum.
- Resolved that Texas PTA supports requiring fine arts to be utilized for integrated instruction as well as maintaining their own integrity.

## School Recess

- Resolved that the Texas PTA and its constituent associations support at least one period of recess for at least 20 minutes per period for every elementary student every day that school is in session; and be it further
- Resolved that the Texas PTA and its constituent associations support both recess and physical education classes; and be it further
- Resolved that the Texas PTA and its constituent associations recommend that Texas school districts develop policies for school recess that include unstructured outdoor play, unstructured indoor play for inclement weather days, educating students on safe playground rules, ensuring the safety of playground equipment and developing an adequate adult to student ratio that should not exceed one adult to 30 students; and be it further
- Resolved that the Texas PTA and its constituent associations oppose any child being refrained from school recess as a disciplinary measure, for academic reasons, or inappropriate classroom behavior; and be it further
- Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to National PTA.

## Funding

- Resolved that Texas PTA implores the governor of this state in conjunction with the Legislative Budget Board to use their statutory powers to provide adequate funding for current textbook purchases as required by the Texas Constitution.
- Resolved that Texas PTA encourages the governor and the Texas legislature to fully fund the state's portion of all other public education expenses for future legislative bienniums and to make funding of enrollment growth a top priority for the state, as it is with local school boards.

## School Choice

- Resolved that Texas PTA assume a leadership position in raising questions and exploring ideas that will help legislators, policy makers and school districts make sound judgments on issues of school choice.
- Resolved that Texas PTA recommends that choice options and alternatives for public schools should ensure that a viable public school system is sustained in every community; parents have the opportunity for involvement in their children's education; a fair and equitable selection process is maintained for schools of choice; adequate and objective information is provided so that parents can make informed choice decisions for all children, including those with special needs, have equal opportunity to participate in the choice plan; appropriate and free transportation is provided for all students participating in the choice plan.
- Resolved that Texas PTA provides information and guidelines to local units and councils that would facilitate understanding and discussion, and enable members to make informed decisions on issues of school choice.

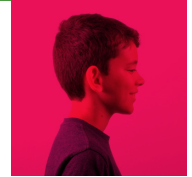


# Texas PTA Legislative Resolutions



## Violence Prevention Education

- Resolved that Texas PTA shall promote educating youth and the community about violence and shall promote providing practical skills for preventing violence.
- Resolved that Texas PTA supports training children in nonviolent conflict resolution and youth violence prevention.
- Resolved that all faculty and staff in schools receive non-violent conflict resolution training.



## Safe Schools

- Resolved that Texas PTA commits to making all schools safe by offering support for implementing school policies that do not tolerate weapons, assaults, sexual harassment, or drugs.
- Resolved that Texas PTA commits to making all schools safe by supporting the removal of students involved in violent acts from the regular school program.
- Resolved that Texas PTA supports providing, to the extent possible, alternative placements for students removed from the regular school program.
- Resolved that Texas PTA commits to working collaboratively with community agencies; city, county and state governments; and the judiciary to resolve issues affecting school and community safety.
- Resolved that Texas PTA supports providing opportunities for schools and students to prepare for these changes.
- Resolved that Texas PTA urges all families to make a special commitment to review and support the local student code of conduct, to sending students to school on a regular basis, and to working with schools regarding all aspects of student learning.

## Playground Safety

- Resolved that Texas PTA urges their local units to encourage their local school boards or appropriate entities to adopt a playground maintenance checklist to insure safe play areas for our children.

## 2014

### Door-To-Door Fundraising Prohibition

- Resolved that all local units refrain from organizing and participating in any fundraising activities that may entice a student to go door to door.
- Resolved that Texas PTA educate the local unit PTA boards, principals, administrators and parents to the existing standards and guidelines concerning the role of children in fundraising.
- Resolved that Texas PTA inform potential exhibitors of PTA fundraising guidelines and admit only those exhibitors who adhere to those guidelines.

### Parents Evaluating Administrators

- Resolved that Texas PTA will work with the Commissioner of Education to include Parental Involvement as one of the Performance Domains in administrator evaluation.
- Resolved that parental input be included in the evaluation process.

### Expressing Support For Institute Of Medicine Recommendations On Alcohol Advertising Placement

- Resolved that the Texas PTA supports that public health agencies monitor the placement and limitation of alcohol advertising.

