

# Proposed Legislative Positions and Resolutions for Convention 2010

## RETIRED OR INACTIVE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED TO REACTIVATE

Health, Welfare & Safety	Resolved	
<p><b>Cement Kilns</b></p> <p>Originally submitted in 2003 and placed in "inactive" status in 2007</p>	<p>Resolved</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>that Texas PTA support notification of the public prior to the issuing, renewing, and expanding of permits for these facilities</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Safety of air quality and children's health. Better informed public of health risks</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> Higher costs of doing business for these operations</p> <p><b>Texas is not complying to National Environmental Protection Agency standards. The recommendation is to change to "active" status, since, although this has been met legislatively, Texas has not fulfilled the intent of the legislation.</b></p>

## RESOLUTIONS and POSITIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

Education	
<p><b>A.10. School Siting</b></p>	<p><b>Texas PTA supports legislation that will protect schools from being sited in areas impacted by hazardous and toxic chemicals</b></p> <p><b>Pros:</b> Provides protection for the health of children and staff in schools from environmental hazard. Must notify the public of results of siting and have public feedback. Encourages responsible use of tax payer bond money</p> <p><b>Cons:</b> May cause financial strain on schools already struggling with funds for construction. May delay construction while site is being evaluated and environmentally cleaned</p>

## POSITIONS TO BE REAFFIRMED

Education	
<p><b>C.05. Reduced Class Sizes</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports legislation which addresses class size in core subjects for grades 5 through 12 and supports state funding for the costs associated with legislative limitation on class size</p>
<p><b>D.05. School Boards and Personnel</b></p> <p><b>E.05. Non-Public School Guidelines</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA opposes mandatory bilateral decision making between school boards and personnel</p> <p>Texas PTA supports requiring non-public schools to meet guidelines that would ensure a quality education for all children.</p>
<b>Health, Welfare &amp; Safety</b>	
<p><b>F.05. CHIP/CPS Funding</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports full funding of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Child Protective Services (CPS) in order to protect children and their health.</p>
<p><b>G.05. Expanded Newborn Screening</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports expanding the screening of all newborns for physical and/or mental disorders that may not be readily apparent to facilitate early detection and treatment.</p>
<p><b>H.05. Safe Campuses</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports safe campuses and other school district facilities</p>
<p><b>I.05. School Staff Trained in CPR</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports requiring the presence of at least one adult staff person trained in CPR and first aid at each school building during school hours.</p>
<p><b>J.05. Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports strengthening the laws dealing with the use or abuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.</p>
<p><b>K.05. Smoking</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports restriction of smoking in public places</p>
<p><b>L.05. Forfeiture and Seizure Proceeds</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports dedicating a portion of forfeiture and seizure proceeds to substance abuse prevention and education.</p>
<p><b>M.05. Child Abuse Laws</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports strengthening child abuse laws and case worker funding.</p>
<p><b>N.05. Laws Governing Day Care Centers</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports strengthening laws governing day-care centers and increasing their availability.</p>
<b>School Finance</b>	
<p><b>O.05. State's Share of Funding</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports increasing the state's share of funding to the local school districts</p>
<p><b>P.05. Revenue Enhancement Provision</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports any type of revenue enhancement that would continue or increase funding for public education</p>
<p><b>Q.05. Funding for Specific Areas</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports continued state funding of pre-K, kindergarten, bilingual education, vocational education, compensatory education, gifted and talented, special handicapped needs, textbooks, education service centers, libraries and community education</p>
<p><b>R.05. TRS</b></p>	<p>Texas PTA supports cost-of-living increases for retirees and increases in the state's contributions to the Teacher Retirement System</p>

**POSITIONS TO BE RETIRED**

Number	Position	Reason
None		

**RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

Education Number	Position	Reason
Strong School Libraries		<p><b>Whereas</b>, public school accountability requires school districts to raise standards to improve student performance; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, 21<sup>st</sup> Century students and educators must have the resources, information, and skills to use effectively; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, <i>The Needs of Public School Libraries</i>, a study completed in 2008 by the Texas Education Agency and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, reports that school libraries support core curriculum areas, enabling students to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic, and educational opportunities of our state, nation, and world; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, school libraries are a vital instructional component of education in K-12 learning environment, providing specialized programming for at-risk students and conducting programs that are proven to help keep kids in school; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the National PTA has, by resolution, firmly established the need for after-school programs and urges state and federal lawmakers to increase investment in such programs; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, school library programs are among the most established and versatile forms of after-school programs, and communities would benefit from having specific efforts directed and strengthening school library programs; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, Texas research has demonstrated that over 10% more students in schools with professional librarians and quality library programs than those students in schools without professional librarians and quality school library programs met minimum state expectations in standardized testing reading scores; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, school librarians are the frontline educational professionals who teach students and faculty how to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively and ethically; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, school librarians are certified and must hold a master's degree, pass a graduate level exam on library media functions and supporting school curricula, and have two years of classroom teaching experience; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the school librarian works with students to safely and efficiently navigate the Internet; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, a statewide 2008 poll of Texas registered voters indicated that 84% strongly agree (and 99% totally agree) that school libraries are an essential part of the education experience and 94% agree that school librarians are critical to student achievement; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, incentives to improve and raise the standards of learning and preparing for higher education, or substantive work knowledge must logically include a certified, highly qualified librarian who serves as the guide and provider of knowledge for the school's students, teachers, and administrators; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, NCLB requires highly qualified teachers in instructional settings and school libraries are prime areas of instruction; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, standard textbooks or course-specific instructional materials only provide the beginning for learning, and true cognitive development is best served from supporting research to offering incentives for voluntary reading, providing specialized age-appropriate and authoritative e-journals, and resources such as those available through school libraries; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, state funding of school districts has put a financial strain on public</p>

schools, and has endangered the provision of quality school library programs staffed by highly qualified certified school librarians and thus sacrificing the quality education for students; and

**Whereas**, Texas had 5,061 librarians serving over 4,651,516 students in 8,195 schools during the 2007-2008 school year.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE REAFFIRMED**

	Resolved	that Texas PTA encourages districts to provide highly qualified certified librarians and quality school library programs at every campus and
	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.
<b>Reduction in Child Obesity</b>	Resolved	that Texas PTA is dedicated to the reduction and prevention of childhood obesity in Texas
<b>Violence Prevention in Schools</b>	Resolved	that 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
	Resolved	that Texas PTA, its units, councils and districts reaffirm its commitment to the promotion and support of violence prevention in schools and communities.
	Resolved	that 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 outbreaks of violence.
	Resolved	that 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 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
<b>Fine Arts in the Core Curriculum</b>	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
<b>None</b>		<b>RESOLUTION TO BE RETIRED</b>



**ALL HANDS ON DECK**  
 MAKING EVERY CHILD'S POTENTIAL A REALITY  
**CONVENTION 2010**  
 FEBRUARY 26-28  
 TSPPTA