



2019-2020
PTA Resolutions Packet



*Proudly shaping the future of Indiana's youth
through member-driven advocacy since 1912.*



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June 3, 2019

TO: Local PTA Unit Presidents
Council Presidents

FROM: Carissa Dollar, Indiana PTA Vice President of Advocacy

Did you know that Indiana PTA is part of the oldest and largest child advocacy group in the world? PTA members have been advocating for children since 1897!

One of the tools PTAs use in order to speak on behalf of children is the Indiana PTA resolutions book. This document is comprised of resolutions approved by our membership at past conventions.

Resolutions guide our work, enabling Indiana PTA to be a voice for children in many areas. A resolution reflects a position adopted by the voting body of our association on an issue that affects children and youth. It interprets the PTA mission and justifies action as members advocate regarding proposed legislation impacting the health, education, and general welfare of all children and youth. Indiana PTA provides testimony, urges sponsorship of legislation, joins coalitions, and provides information to members regarding issues all based on the resolutions passed by our members.

All this means that your voice as a PTA member truly counts! Do you know of an issue which affects children and youth statewide and requires statewide action for a solution? Submitting a resolution can help your PTA initiate statewide action on the issues that are important to you! The Indiana PTA Advocacy Committee encourages PTA members, units and councils to propose resolutions on issues they wish Indiana PTA to take a stand on. Get started NOW, so you can meet the **January 25th deadline**, and have your resolution presented for consideration at State Convention in the spring.

When submitting a resolution, you must include a completed "Convention Action Cover Sheet" and ALL documentation which supports the resolution. Documentation can come from several sources: magazine articles, journals, professional reports, newspaper articles, and the internet. Any verifiable, factual source may be used. **Please remember, the deadline for submitting a resolution is January 25, 2020.**

The Indiana PTA Advocacy Committee will review all resolutions received by the deadline for accuracy and documented support; and to assure that all criteria have been met. Once verified, a proposed resolution is presented to the Indiana PTA Board of Managers for action. If the Resolution receives board approval, it will then be presented to the State Convention delegate body for action.

The Indiana PTA Advocacy Committee is in place to help each local PTA unit and council. If your PTA needs assistance with any step of the resolutions process, please feel free to contact me or the Indiana PTA state office.

Sincerely,

Indiana PTA 2019-2020 Advocacy Committee

Carissa Dollar - Vice President of Advocacy & Federal Legislative Coordinator

Rachel Burke - State Legislative Coordinator

Peggy Puzzello, Destiny Hatcher, Chrissy Smith - Committee Members

(Are you interested in advocating for Indiana's children? We still have several slots to fill on this committee! Contact one of us for more information!)



SAMPLE RESOLUTION LETTER

A resolution is a motion, which because of its importance, length, or complexity is submitted in writing. At convention new business is introduced through resolutions. Once a resolution is passed, it becomes the basis for the legislative priorities and program development done by the Indiana PTA.

A resolution consists of two main parts:

The first part presents the reason(s) for the resolution. Each separate “WHEREAS” is really a “BECAUSE,” stating a specific piece of background information or fact which currently exists.

Next comes the action or actions needed to correct the problem – What you want Indiana PTA to do? Again, each specific individual action should have its own “RESOLVED” statement.

Following is a sample resolution, showing the correct structure, punctuation and form:

WHEREAS,	The portion of a resolution comprising the phrases starting with the word “WHEREAS” is known as the preamble of the resolution; and
WHEREAS,	The preamble includes statements of fact, background information, or reasons to take action relating to the action proposed in the “RESOLVED” clauses; or
WHEREAS,	The action taken on a resolution is action only on the statements contained in the “RESOLVED” clauses; therefore be it
RESOLVED,	That any resolutions that are proposed for consideration by convention delegates be postmarked or hand delivered to the State PTA Office by January 25, 2019; and be it further
RESOLVED,	That it be directed that resolutions submitted to the Indiana PTA for consideration shall follow this sample resolution in structure, punctuation, and form; and be it
RESOLVED,	RESOLVED, That such resolutions meeting all established criteria and approved by the board be presented to convention delegates for consideration at said convention.

Remember in the “RESOLVED” portion not to ask Indiana PTA to do something that it cannot do. For example, the Indiana PTA can support legislation but it cannot make a law; Indiana PTA can encourage units to educate and inform their members, but it cannot require them to do anything.



STATE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES

1. The Advocacy Committee will meet directly after the **January 25th** deadline and consider all resolutions received.
2. The Advocacy Committee will acknowledge in writing all resolutions received from units, councils, and/or from the Indiana PTA Board of Managers members or its commissions or committees, that meet the **January 25th** deadline.

STATE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AUTHORITY CONCERNING PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

1. The Advocacy Committee may make changes in the proposed resolutions with the consent of the submitting group.
2. If the proposed resolution meets ALL criteria, it will go to the Board of Managers for review and if approved, will be presented to the convention body for their vote.
3. When the proposed resolution does not meet ALL criteria but could meet the criteria with additional background information, rewording, etc., the Advocacy Committee will make an effort to work with the submitting group to see if the proposed resolution can be made to meet ALL criteria.
4. If the Advocacy Committee determines that the proposed resolution does not meet ALL the criteria, their report to the Board of Managers will include only the title. It will not be discussed by the Board of Managers and will not be taken to the convention body.



CONVENTION ACTION COVER SHEET

This cover sheet must accompany any resolution proposed for action by delegates to the State Convention. If you wish to submit more than 1 resolution, feel free to photocopy this cover sheet. Each resolution submitted must have its own completed cover sheet.

DEADLINE:

POSTMARKED OR HAND DELIVERED TO THE STATE OFFICE BY JANUARY 25, 2020.

Submitting group or person (*Local PTA Unit, Council, Indiana PTA Committee or Commission, or Board of Managers member*) _____

CHECKLIST ----is the proposed action:

- _____ In accordance with PTA Objects and Policies?
- _____ Related to education, health and welfare of children and youth?
- _____ Accompanied by background data?
- _____ Signed (by the individual or the group's president or chairman)?
- _____ Of statewide concern?

Signature:

Date:

Please give the name of the person to contact if the Advocacy Committee wishes to get in touch with the originating person or group:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Email _____

Mail to: Indiana PTA
973 N Shadeland Ave. #105
Indianapolis, IN 46219



CRITERIA FOR A RESOLUTION

To be appropriate for consideration by the Indiana PTA Resolutions Committee, a resolution must:

- Be in harmony with the Objects and basic policies of the Indiana PTA
- Concern a matter which is of statewide interest and importance
- Be written in the appropriate form (Please use sample above.)
- State a position not previously adopted by the Indiana PTA
- Be accompanied by **ALL** supporting documentation

Each “**WHEREAS**” clause must be supported by current adequate documentation:

Include PTA-related information, such as position statements, policies and previous actions (if any); copies of surveys or statistics documenting the resolution; copies of other relevant publications. Newspaper articles alone are not adequate documentation. The background material must be sufficient to give a person with no previous knowledge of the subject, enough information to make an intelligent decision. Documentation should be unbiased and present a fair view of the issue. There must be at least two (2) unique sources for every WHEREAS clause (though the same source may be used to support more than one WHEREAS clause.) Google Scholar can be a valuable tool in finding this documentation.

Copy then highlight or underline all pertinent information in the supporting documentation for the proposed resolution. Number each “**WHEREAS**” in the proposed resolution and identify the highlighted supporting documentation with the appropriate number.

When submitting resolutions:

Each resolution being submitted must be accompanied by a completed “Convention Action Cover Sheet” and ALL supporting documentation. Send only copies of supporting documentation. Do not send entire books, magazines, surveys or other research material.

Resolutions may be submitted by local PTA units or councils. The “Convention Action Cover Sheet” must be signed by the president or chairman of the submitting group. If a resolution is submitted by an individual, he or she must sign the “Convention Action Cover Sheet.”

Index of Resolutions

Active Inactive *Historic*

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Master Settlement Agreement Money (MSA)	2014	Active
Substance Abuse Awareness	1982	Active
Combating Prescription Drug Abuse	2013	Active
Preventing Solicitation of Adult Products to Minors	2013	Active
Reducing the Illegal Sale of Cigarettes to Minors	1989	Inactive
Underage Drinking	1994	Inactive
<i>Alcohol Free Environment for Youth</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Comprehensive School/Community Health Education Program</i>	1978	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Genetic Effects of Substance Abuse</i>	1978	<i>Historic</i>

CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Arming Teachers	2019	Active
Computer Pornography	1995	Active
Corporal Punishment	1993	Active
Full-Time School Nurses	1999	Active
Juvenile Justice	2008	Active
Making Schools Safe	2012	Active
Master Settlement Agreement Money (MSA)	2014	Active
MtBE Contamination (Methyl-Tertiary-Butyl Ether) Safe Drinking Water	2003	Active
Post-Foster Care Support	2015	Active
Preventing Solicitation of Adult Products to Minors	2013	Active
Safe School Buildings	2009	Active
School Safety and Polling Places	2009	Active
Seat Belt Safety	1986	Active
Tanning Bed Use	2012	Active
Youth Violence Prevention	2002	Active
Maintaining a Safe School Climate	1992	Inactive
Youth Suicide	1986	Inactive
<i>Child Abuse and Neglect</i>	1982	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Fingerprinting</i>	1984	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Fireworks Resolution</i>	1994	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Ganging Up on Gangs</i>	1991	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Good Posture</i>	1981	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Halloween Safety</i>	1983	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Highway Safety and Young Pedestrians</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Home Fire Safety</i>	1981	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Latch Key Children</i>	1985	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Prevention of Sexual Child Abuse: An Awareness Program</i>	1984	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Scoliosis Screening</i>	1983	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</i>	1981	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Student Pedestrian Safety</i>	1986	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Uniform Signage - School Zone</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Video Game Arcades</i>	1983	<i>Historic</i>

CITIZENSHIP AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

To Reduce School Dropouts	1981	Active
<i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Patriotism</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>

COOPERATIVE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parent/Teacher Conferences	2010	Active
Preschool/Early Childhood Education	2000	Active
Student Achievement Through Parental Involvement	1979	Active
Third Grade Reading	2012	Active
<i>Administrative Recognition</i>	1984	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Mandated School Groups</i>	1979	<i>Historic</i>
<i>PTA and Negotiations</i>	1979	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Separate Department of Education</i>	1979	<i>Historic</i>

CULTURAL ARTS

The Arts in Education	1994	Active
<i>The Arts in Indiana Public Schools</i>	1982	<i>Historic</i>

CURRICULUM EMPHASIS

Assessment and Accountability	2015	Active
Infant Mortality Reduction Through Education	1989	Active
Mandatory Kindergarten	1995	Active
Preschool/Early Childhood Education	2000	Active
Third Grade Reading	2012	Active
<i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>	1988	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Comprehensive School Health Education</i>	1981	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Gifted and Talented Children</i>	1979	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Remedial Reading and Math</i>	1978	<i>Historic</i>
<i>The Arts in Indiana Public Schools</i>	1982	<i>Historic</i>
<i>Vocational Education Resolution</i>	1989	<i>Historic</i>

DESEGREGATION

<i>Involuntary ReAssignment of Students</i>	1974	<i>Historic</i>
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DISCIPLINE

Maintaining a Safe School Climate	1982	Inactive
<i>Violence and Vandalism in the Schools</i>	1979	<i>Historic</i>

ENVIRONMENT

<i>Education for Environment</i>	1992	<i>Historic</i>
<i>The Three R's</i>	1991	<i>Historic</i>

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Combating Prescription Drug Abuse	2013	Active
Comprehensive Sex-Education Programs	2015	Active
Full-Time School Nurses	1999	Active
Healthy Snacks During the School Day	2008	Active
Infant Mortality Reduction Through Education	1989	Active
Master Settlement Agreement Money (MSA)	2014	Active
Photosensitive Epilepsy	2019	Active
Tanning Bed Use	2012	Active

Anorexia and Bulimia	1985	Inactive
<i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>	1988	Historic
<i>Comprehensive School Health Education</i>	1981	Historic
<i>Comprehensive School/Community Health Education</i>	1978	Historic
<i>Good Posture</i>	1981	Historic
<i>Healthy Lifestyle</i>	1981	Historic
<i>Nutrition Education for Adults</i>	1979	Historic
<i>Reducing the Illegal Sale of Cigarettes for Minors</i>	1989	Historic
<i>Scoliosis Screening</i>	1983	Historic

MASS MEDIA

Effects of Media on the Development of the Female Self Esteem	2009	Active
Photosensitive Epilepsy	2019	Active
<i>Effects of Television on Children and Youth</i>	1979	Historic

PARENTS AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Preschool/Early Childhood Education	2000	Active
Student Achievement Through Parental Involvement	1979	Active
Third Grade Reading	2012	Active
Youth Suicide	1986	Inactive
<i>Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</i>	1988	Historic
<i>Ganging Up on Gangs</i>	1991	Historic
<i>Prevention of Sexual Child Abuse: An Awareness Program</i>	1984	Historic

PTA ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS

<i>Indiana PTA Supplemental Income</i>	1974	Historic
<i>State Life Membership</i>	1978	Historic

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

<i>Character and Spiritual</i>	1980	Historic
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SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

<i>Administrative Recognition</i>	1984	Historic
<i>Separate Department of Education</i>	1979	Historic

Updated 06/30/19



RESOLUTIONS GLOSSARY

It has been suggested that the most frightening aspect of the resolution process is the language. Big words seem to imply that the speakers or writers must be experts. This is not true. Submitting a resolution is simple. (1) Someone recognizes a problem and thinks they may know a remedy for the problem. (2) They share their suggestion for a remedy with the PTA. (3) If the PTA agrees, action is taken to implement the remedy. But that still leaves us with the problem of the language. So, in an effort to demystify the language, the following glossary of resolution terminology is offered.

BACKGROUND MATERIAL – Statements by experts, statistical reference material, and articles from magazines and newspapers submitted with the resolution to substantiate the “whereas” clause.

CRITERIA – The standard rules on which a resolution is judged worthy of presentation to the delegate body.

DELEGATE BODY – A congregation of delegates organized for the purpose of determining the action of the organization.

IMPLEMENTATION – The action taken to fulfill the directives of the resolution.

LEGISLATION – The act of making or affecting laws; and the laws made by such a procedure.

LOCAL UNIT – A PTA organized in a community.

PRESENTERS – Those persons designated by submitters to share information and support data with delegates.

RESOLUTION – A resolution is an original main motion that, because of its importance, length, or complexity, is submitted in writing.

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVOCACY – The person on the STATE BOARD of MANAGERS, who has been designated to provide whatever help you need to submit your resolution.

RESOLVED CLAUSE – The resolved clause contains the requests for action. Each action requested should have its own resolved clause.

WHEREAS CLAUSE – The “whereas” clause contains background information and the reasons for the resolutions.