

I. RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

WHEREAS: the Legislative Platform of the Illinois PTA, Item 6-a seeks to improve the quality of education, and Item 7-a provides for adequate legislative and/or financial support for the protection, health, and welfare of children and youth;

WHEREAS: Social and emotional problems experienced by children and adolescents, such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts, juvenile delinquency, dropping out of school, engaging in multiple risky behaviors and the juvenile arrest rate for violent crime have grown considerably over the past decade;

WHEREAS: Social and emotional development is an essential foundation of cognitive development and related to academic achievement;

WHEREAS: Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) defined as the process of acquiring the skills to recognize and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle challenging situations has effectively been proven by research to increase student achievement in academics (11%);

WHEREAS: the school setting is recognized as one of the most influential socializing contexts for any child outside the family to help him/her to acquire social and emotional skills; and

WHEREAS: Legislators, educators, youth-serving practitioners, and school support personnel recognize the importance of developing students' skills necessary to be successful in the workplace, make ethical decisions, and be contributing members of society.

RESOLVED: that Illinois PTA actively distribute information on and promote the inclusion of Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) content, skills, evaluation and assessment standards within school curricula as has been developed by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE);

RESOLVED: that Illinois PTA encourage and support the education of students, parents, teachers, administrators and legislators in SEL working in a collaborative manner with other organizations of similar interest; and

RESOLVED: that Illinois PTA seek and support increasing the efforts of the Illinois State Board of Education to educate local school districts in the importance and requirements to implement SEL standards.