

ILLINOIS PTA CONTINUING POSITIONS

Continuing positions are active and current positions of the Illinois PTA. They are established to preserve positions taken in Resolutions that are more than three years old and according to our bylaws would otherwise be dropped. See Article XIX, Sections 3 and 4.

Environment Concerns

We will support legislation banning mass releases (launches) of latex and/or Mylar balloons. (1990)

We will support legislation that would protect children from the detrimental effects of electromagnetic fields. (1991)

We will support legislation to enforce more stringent standards for protection from indoor air contaminants as research continues to reveal sources and for improved ventilation standards and building codes for schools. (1998)

Financing Public Schools

We will actively support appropriating funds to permit school districts to employ teachers in a sufficient number to maintain a desirable pupil-teacher ratio, which should not preclude the utilization in appropriate situations of very large or very small groups. (1978)

We support enforcement of the State Mandates Act's intent that no legislation proposing new mandates for local school districts may be imposed without a provision for state funding. (1982)

We will seek the appropriation of sufficient funds for elementary and secondary schools so that the state does provide the primary cost of public education statewide, and so that school districts can have adequate funding to provide quality teachers and curricula while maintaining maximum control by local school boards. (1983)

Health Issues

We support including age appropriate information on eating disorders, healthy weight and risks of inadequate nutrition in health class curricula and teacher in-service opportunities. (2000)

We support the requirement of Vision Examination Before Entering Kindergarten. (2004)

Believing that the rise in childhood obesity has many documented negative effects on children, the Illinois PTA will continue to work with cooperating agencies and health professionals on the best practices in identifying and treating childhood obesity and disseminating timely information to our constituent organizations. (2005)

Juvenile Justice

We will work for legislation and funding to provide community programs to intervene with children who come into contact with the police as a result of childish wrong doings before the child's activities escalate into criminal acts demanding incarceration. (2001)

We urge PTA units to work within their county to improve its juvenile justice system, including pre-trial detention policies, and seek alternatives to pre-trial detention policies, and seek

alternatives to pre-trial secure detention. PTAs are urged to join or form coalitions to address juvenile justice issues. (2001)

We strongly support adequate state funding for counties to provide alternative programs and services for the treatment of juvenile offenders to reduce the need for confinement in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility. (2003)

Multi-Media

We support television networks moderating the level of violence in programming and made-for-TV movies. (1987)

We support cautionary labeling of videotapes, recorded music, and music videos, which go beyond the emotional maturity level of some children and youth, so that parents may exercise parental discretion in supervising their children's viewing habits. (1987)

We support video outlets keeping X-rated videotapes in a separate area not open to children. (1987)

We oppose any advertising, which does not display a high sense of ethics and morality. (1987)

Non-Public Schools and Parental Choice

We strongly oppose the use of public funds for non-public schools and will continue to work against any such appropriation of funds. We will participate in court actions instituted to challenge any laws, which would provide such aid. (1970)

We oppose requiring school boards to bus non-public students beyond district boundaries. (1980)

While we continue to oppose the use of public funds in private schools, we will actively seek and support legislation that would require that non-public schools now receiving public funds or assistance meet all requirements demanded of public schools. (1985)

We reaffirm the position to oppose Parental Choice legislation that would negatively impact local school funding or could result in inequitable educational opportunities for all children. (1989)

Safety Issues

We support legislation to classify BB and pellet guns as Dangerous Weapons, Category II, with appropriate punishment for assaults. (1999)

We support legislation for a Child Access Prevention (CAP) law in Illinois that requires adults to keep guns safely and securely away from children, or be held criminally liable. (1999)

We support legislation requiring all riders under the age of 16, of all-terrain vehicles, mopeds, scooters, mini-bikes, and motorcycles, to wear helmets approved by the Department of Transportation and/or Snell Memorial Foundation, and support a mandatory penalty for the adult operator of a motorcycle who allows a child to ride without an appropriate helmet. (2000)

We will provide information and resources to constituent bodies on the prevention of bullying, encouraging them to share this information with parents, to assist parent involvement in development and implementation of student discipline policy and we will encourage the Illinois State Board of Education and Association of School Boards to provide resources and training to teachers in conflict resolution and the prevention of social conflicts and bullying (2002)

We urge local units to disseminate information regarding backpack safety and to work with school staff to eliminate hazards associated with backpacks. (2003)

We believe that, in the interest of keeping kids safe, schools should not be in session if they are used as polling locations unless the school can be secured; and we urge local units/councils to work with local school boards to adopt such policies. (2005)

Schools and Education

We support modifying the state mandate for physical education to allow more flexibility in meeting the educational, physical fitness and extracurricular needs of students. (1982)

We will support legislation that does not mandate state and local holidays as non-attendance school days, but gives each local school board the option to choose its own non-attendance school holidays. (1986)

We support legislation and/or regulations that would protect students from exploitation by prohibiting business from bringing into the school any program that would require a student to view advertising or to study specific instructional programs as a condition of the school receiving a donation of money or the donation or loan of equipment. (1989)

We support legislation and funding that would provide school nursing services and staff to render professional health care services on a daily basis in the public schools of Illinois. (1991)

We support legislation to insure adequate representation on the Illinois State Board of Education from all geographic regions of Illinois. (2000)

School Labor Issues

During any negotiation process we urge teachers to refrain from attempting to influence the thinking of students by discussing pending or resolved issues unless appropriate to the subject area being taught. (1973)

We oppose laws, which require school boards to dismiss tenured teachers in order of seniority. (1980)

We reaffirm the position that the principal is the educational leader for the school, provides supervision of school staff and students, and oversees the management of the school's physical plant. (1998)