

Call for Resolutions 2015 - 2016!

Call to Action for Our Children!



Many statutes and programs that benefit Illinois children and youth began as an Illinois PTA Resolution!

From internet safety to social - emotional learning, from vision exam requirements before kindergarten to food allergy concerns, from school bus safety to juvenile justice, Illinois PTA Resolutions have made a difference for our children!

Do you have an issue you would like resolved?

Look inside to find out how!

RESOLUTIONS – A Call for Action!

ILLINOIS PTA RESOLUTION BASICS

What is a Resolution?

Simply, in PTA, a Resolution is the statement of a problem that impacts our children, followed by a call to action by our members to resolve the issue.

More formally, a Resolution is a written main motion that provides direction for us when adopted by convention delegates. A Resolution consists of two main parts: the “Whereas” statements – which are your fact statements; followed by the “Resolved” statements – the requests for action.

What are the Basic Steps to a Resolution?

1. Identify a concern, an issue that may affect children or youth throughout Illinois. Illinois PTA Resolutions must be “statewide in scope.”
2. Form a Resolutions committee.
3. Research the facts surrounding the issue.
4. Write the Resolution to support your Call to Action on the issue.
5. Present the Resolution to your local PTA unit or council for adoption.
6. Once adopted, the President signs and dates the Resolution.
7. Send the Resolution by January 31, 2016 to the Resolutions Director.
8. Present the Resolution at the Annual Convention for vote by our membership.

Are Illinois PTA Resolutions effective?

Absolutely! Many changes in programs and laws began as an Illinois PTA Resolution. Here are just a few examples:

- **The 2013 Resolution on Prevention of Asphyxiation Games (the Choking Game)** spurred joint action with the American Academy of Pediatrics: a paper directed to pediatricians on the issue published in the *Illinois Pediatrician*, and the information sheet, *The Choking Game: What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know*.
- **The 2008 Resolution on Food Allergies** was followed by the 2009 Public Act 96-0349 on Food Allergies, and the 2011 Emergency Epinephrine Act. As this is being written, we are awaiting the Governor’s signature on HB5892, which will further protect children with Food Allergies.
- **The 2007 Resolution to Ban Cell Phone Use While Driving** was followed by the 2009 Public Act 96-1030 which banned texting while driving, and the 2014 Public Act 98-0506 which now prohibits anything other than “hands-free” cell phone use.
- **The 2004 Resolution to Require Vision Exams Before Kindergarten** was followed by the 2007 Public Act 95-0671 in this regard.
- **The 2006 Resolution on Juvenile Justice**, and those prior, were followed by multiple reforms in the juvenile justice system, including the recent 2013 Public Act 98-0061 which changed the definition of delinquent minor to that of a person who is under 18 (instead of 17).

PREAMBLE: The “WHEREAS” Statements and What You Need to Provide

The preamble or “Whereas” clauses of a Resolution contain the “fact statements”. (“Whereas” just means “because”.) The “Whereas” statements are used to make your case.

The first "Whereas" must cite the section or sections of the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform that relates to the subject of the Resolution.

The additional "Whereas" clauses are used to clarify the problem you are addressing and must be accompanied by sufficient documentation to back up the claim of fact. Your documentation may include information from: research articles, statistics, and from local newspapers. Be sure and check for other organizations that may have background information on the subject. The internet is an invaluable tool!

Please note clearly which back up documents correspond to each “Whereas” statement. Three to five "Whereas" statements are usually sufficient to explain the issue you are addressing.

More detailed information can be presented verbally when the Resolution is presented by a representative of your group at convention.

THE “RESOLVED” STATEMENTS: The Call to Action!

The “Resolved” statements are the main Motion, and your call to action! This is the course of action that the group has planned to take in order to accomplish the goal.

The “Resolved” clauses are the action that local units, councils, districts, Region, Illinois PTA and/or National PTA are asked to take to assist in rectifying the problem or situation.

The actions may include: providing information to our members; working with other organizations to raise awareness of the issue; and/or supporting legislation that aligns with our position, and raising awareness of such legislation.

Each request for action will begin with the word "Resolved" and should be written in the following order:

- 1) Action to be taken by local units, councils, districts, Region and/or Illinois PTA.
- 2) Legislative action requested.
- 3) Submission to the National PTA

It is not necessary for a resolution to contain all three of these "Resolved" components, but at least one "Resolved" must direct the Illinois PTA to take some form of action.

REMEMBER: Resolutions MUST be RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 2016.

Let's look at our 2013 Resolution on Energy Drinks as an example:

2013 Resolution on Energy Drinks

First, the "Whereas" clauses: this is where you make your case!

Here is where you:

- Explain the problem;
- Document the issue or harm; and,
- In general, illustrate the need for action.

The first "Whereas" clause refers to the part of the Legislation Platform that concerns the issue.

WHEREAS, the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform Section 7, Protection of Children and Youth, Item a., maintains that we support adequate legislative and/or financial support for the protection, health, and welfare of children and youth; and

The next "Whereas" clauses provide information, including statistics, from the research that was conducted on the issue.

WHEREAS, Energy Drinks, which contain substances that act as nonnutritive stimulants (including, but not limited to, caffeine, guarana, and taurine) and ingredients that are not regulated and/or not properly studied, are being marketed to youths for a number of inappropriate uses; and

WHEREAS, researchers at the American Academy of Pediatrics have determined that Energy Drinks are not appropriate for consumption by either children or adolescents; and

WHEREAS, Energy Drinks are consumed by between 30-50% of adolescents and young adults; and

WHEREAS, Energy Drinks, which frequently contain high and unregulated amounts of caffeine, have been reported in association with serious adverse health effects, including seizures, mania, stroke and sudden death; and

WHEREAS, of the 5,448 caffeine overdoses reported in 2007 in the USA, 46% of those occurred in those younger than 19 years old; now therefore be it

The call to action in the Resolved Clauses may include:

Then, the "Resolved" clauses: this is where you give the course of action to correct the problem!

▪ **Providing Information**

RESOLVED, that the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies disseminate information with respect to health concerns related to energy drinks to its constituent bodies; and be it further

▪ **Working with other organizations**

RESOLVED, that the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the dangers inherent in the ingestion of energy drinks; and be it further

▪ **Legislation position**

RESOLVED, that the Illinois PTA encourage local school districts to prohibit the sale and distribution of Energy Drinks at school and during school functions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support legislation which addresses the negative effects of energy drinks on children and youth, by: requiring accurate labeling, including the stimulants they contain; and limiting the availability of these drinks to children and youth.

ILLINOIS PTA RESOLUTIONS CRITERIA – Additional Details

Please continue reading so you don't miss any important information!

RESOLUTIONS MUST:

- Concern the Legislation Platform of the Illinois PTA, (Illinois PTA Bylaws, Article XXI, Legislation.)
- Not be in conflict with a present position of the Illinois PTA, as established by the Illinois PTA Statements of Position, Statement of Policy, Continuing Positions, Legislation Platform, Resolutions, or under the authority of the Legislation Policies Committee on the basis of those positions. A position may be changed by first rescinding the position previously adopted.
- Be statewide in scope.
- Be considerate of 'Local Control' unless it can be demonstrated by documentation that local boards of education frequently have made choices that jeopardize the education, health, protection, safety, welfare or civil rights of children in regard to the issue at hand.
- Be accompanied by sufficient documentation to prove the preamble - this should include the most recent research on the issue - (the "Whereas" clauses) and that the Resolution would solve the problem in some measure. (Documentation may include agency or other organization documents and research. Newspaper editorials and articles alone are not adequate.)
- Be considerate of the constitutional rights of both adults and children.
- Be considerate of fiscal and/or time restraints, which may require an ordering of priorities in issues addressing the education, health, protection, safety, and welfare of children.
- If requesting National as well as State action, have sufficient supporting documentation for presentation to the National Resolutions Committee.
- Be in appropriate language.
- Be in harmony with the basic policies and Purposes of the PTA.
- Be different from a position or action already taken by the Illinois PTA or the National PTA.
- Be typed, double-spaced, titled and submitted in duplicate with Resolutions Cover Sheet.

Resolutions submitted by the deadline are then reviewed by the Legislation Policies Committee to assure that they meet these criteria. This subsequently leads to the statement, "This resolution has met the written criteria..." This does not imply endorsement by the State Board of Directors, individually or collectively.

SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION

After the Resolution has been presented to the local unit and adopted, send the Resolution (along with the proper background information) to: Wendy Powers, Illinois PTA Resolutions Director at: wpowers@illinoispta.org.

If other units are interested, the Resolution is presented to them for their adoption and all units supporting Resolution may be listed in submission information. (ONLY if a majority of the local units in a council adopt the Resolution, may the council be listed as submitter.)

DEADLINE – JANUARY 31, 2016

The deadline for submitting a Resolution is **January 31, 2016**.

Proposed Resolutions meeting written criteria will be placed on the Illinois PTA website, www.illinoispta.org, under the Advocacy tab as soon as possible after deadline, but no later than 15 days prior to the Illinois PTA Convention, to allow delegates the required time to preview proposed Resolutions before Convention.

Resolutions meeting written criteria will also be included in onsite Convention materials.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Resolutions will be screened by the Legislation Policy Committee to determine if it has met all the Resolution criteria, and then presented to the State Board of Directors at the pre-Convention board meeting.

Editorial changes may be made to Resolutions by the Legislation Policy Committee prior to being presented. The submitting unit will be notified by the Resolutions Director of the determination of the Legislation Policy Committee as soon as possible.

If the Legislation Policy Committee determines that the Resolution does not meet the criteria, the submitting unit has the option of withdrawing the Resolution. If the submitting unit chooses to present the Resolution, this is done from the floor during the designated general session at the annual convention. See "THE RESOLUTION AT CONVENTION" below.

THE RESOLUTION AT CONVENTION

Resolutions Determined To Have Met Written Criteria

Resolutions are presented during the assigned general session at the Illinois PTA Annual Convention. It is expected that the submitting PTA unit will send at least one representative to the Convention. The Illinois PTA Resolutions Director, who will move its adoption, presents each Resolution recommended for presentation to the convention delegates. The president will then ask the representative(s) from the submitting unit to speak to the Resolution. This is the opportunity for the representative(s) of the unit and all supporters of the Resolution to convince the delegate body to support the Resolution. (Speakers must be registered delegates.)

- Describe the problem and the recommended solution clearly and concisely with the assumption that the subject is new to the delegates.
- Prepare written notes before going to the microphone (2-minute limit).
- Do not repeat what has been said. Delegates often become impatient with "overkill."
- Designate other delegates to speak or be available for support.
- Use presenters wisely. NO ONE is permitted to speak to a Resolution a second time until all the delegates wishing to speak have had the opportunity to do so. NO ONE is permitted to speak to a motion more than two times. (The President has the authority to request clarification from the presenting unit at any time.)
- Realize others may not agree and often Resolutions are amended several times before they

are adopted.

Resolutions Determined Not To Have Met Written Criteria

If the Legislation Policies Committee determines that the Resolution does not meet the criteria, the submitting unit has the option of withdrawing the Resolution. If the submitting unit chooses to present the Resolution, this is done from the floor during the designated general session at the annual convention after all other Resolutions have been considered. If there is time left during consideration of Resolutions, the submitting unit may present the Resolution from the floor, moving its adoption. The Illinois PTA Resolutions Director will then be the first to speak against it indicating the Resolution did not meet criteria.

AFTER CONVENTION

If the convention body adopts the Resolution, there will be follow-up work to be done to "Make it Real." In order for the resolves to be accomplished, the submitting unit must lead the way in implementation of the action items in the Resolution.

If the Resolution is to be submitted to the National PTA, the submitting unit is responsible for supplying sufficient background information to meet the criteria. (See the National PTA Resolutions Guidelines.) The submitting unit is not required to attend the National PTA Convention, although that would be appropriate. As this will now be an Illinois PTA Resolution, the state Resolutions Director will present the supporting arguments. If the original submitting unit is unable to attend, the Illinois PTA Resolutions Director will arrange for sufficient Illinois delegates to be prepared to speak in support of the Resolution.

If you need any further information, please contact:

Wendy Powers
Illinois PTA Resolutions Director
Phone: 847-707-5588
Email: wpowers@illinoispta.org

I would love to hear about the issues you face and your ideas for resolving them!

GLOSSARY OF RESOLUTION GUIDELINE TERMS

BACKGROUND MATERIAL – Research and/or documentation for each of the "Whereas" and "Resolved" clauses of the Resolution. This material should support your position and action, and indicate that your subject was well-researched. The documentation should provide the reader with sufficient information to understand the intent of the Resolution. Include the source information (such as publication, author and date). The specific details addressing the "Whereas" statements should be highlighted. Each reference should be numbered to match the related "Whereas" statements. The supporting material may include PTA-related information such as statements of policies, copies of documented research, pertinent laws, applicable surveys or statistics, and copies of relevant articles from publications. (Newspaper articles and editorials alone are not sufficient background material.)

CRITERIA -Standards that must be met in order for Resolutions to be accepted by the legislation policies committee.

NATIONAL INTENT – The Resolution concerns a matter that is national in scope and requires nationwide action.

RATIONALE -There are two (2) types of rationale:

Written - which must address each whereas and resolve.

Verbal – which highlights important points of the written rationale, and which is presented at the microphone on the convention floor.

RESOLUTION - A formal expression of the opinion or will of a group by a vote. A Resolution is a main motion which, because of its importance and length or complexity, is submitted in writing. A Resolution generally consists of two main parts: the "Whereas" section and the "Resolved section."

RESOLVED - This is the main motion, which is comprised of the request for action or actions, and expresses the opinion or will of the group.

STATEWIDE IN SCOPE - The Resolution's concern is not limited to one unit or one school district, but is a concern for all/many units in the state.

WHEREAS - The preamble part of the Resolution which consists of the statement(s) providing information on the Resolution, reasons for the Resolution, and why it should be adopted.

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Resolution on _____

WHEREAS, Section _____, Item _____, (*you may list more than one*) of the Illinois PTA
Legislation Platform states _____; and

WHEREAS, (*second fact statement*) _____
_____; and

WHEREAS, (*third fact statement*) _____
_____; and

WHEREAS, (*fourth fact statement*) _____
_____; and

WHEREAS, (*fifth fact statement*) _____
_____;

now therefore be it

RESOLVED, (*indicate the action to be taken by local units, councils, and/or Illinois PTA, if
applicable*) _____
_____; and be it further

RESOLVED, (*other actions, if applicable*) _____
_____; and be it further

RESOLVED, (*legislative action, if applicable*) _____
_____; and be it further

RESOLVED, (*submission to National PTA, if applicable - must meet National PTA criteria*)

_____.

RESOLUTION TEMPLATE (continued)

Submitted by: _____

(Name and Address of PTA or Council)

Signed by President: _____

Printed Name: _____

President's Phone Number: _____

President's Email: _____

Date of Adoption by Local Unit, Region or Council _____

Resolution Contact Person information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E Mail: _____