

Resolution on Young Adults Involved in the Justice System

- Whereas:** The preamble of the Illinois PTA legislation platform promotes and supports legislation designed to protect all children and youth; and Section 7, Item A which says, to secure adequate laws for the care of and protection of youth; and
- Whereas:** Advances in behavior and neuroscience research confirm that brain development continues to the mid-twenties, meaning that young adults have more psychosocial similarities to children than to older adults; and
- Whereas:** Recent neurological research shows that brain development of adolescents continues well into young adulthood and the decision-making capacity of young adults shares much with the impulsiveness of young teenagers; and
- Whereas:** Countries such as Italy, Sweden, and Germany have long histories of treating young adults 18 to 21 years old separately; and
- Whereas:** New York and California are moving to handle 18 to 21 year olds separately from older persons; now therefore, be it
- Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA provides information to its constituent associations about the brain development of young adults between the ages of 18 to 21; and be it
- Resolved:** That local units share this information concerning young adult brain development with their membership, providing opportunities to learn about the effect brain maturity has on the actions of 18 to 21 years old; and be it
- Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA provides information to its constituent associations regarding studies and practices that urge treating 18 to 21 year olds who become involved with the justice system separately and differently from persons over 21; and be it
- Resolved:** That the local units share this information with their legislators and other governmental officials to help them understand the need to consider how we address this age group in our justice system; and be it
- Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA establishes a study committee to consider either: providing separate diversion and sentencing options for young adults and/or raising the age of the juvenile court to 21; reporting its findings and recommendations to the 2017 Illinois PTA Convention.