

## **Resolution on Climate Change**

1 **Whereas:** Section 9, Item a, of the Illinois PTA Legislation Platform states that the Illinois PTA  
2 promotes and supports improved legislation that will set and enforce standards and  
3 appropriate funds that are adequate to control air, water and noise pollution, and other  
4 environmental deterioration within the state; and

5 **Whereas:** According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “global warming” refers to  
6 the recent and ongoing rise in global average temperature near earth's surface caused  
7 predominantly by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere leading to  
8 changes in climate patterns, and “climate change” refers to any significant change in the  
9 measures of climate (including changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns) that  
10 lasts for an extended period of time of decades or longer; and

11 **Whereas:** According to the EPA, the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA), and the  
12 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations, human activities, including  
13 the use of fossil fuels, are the predominant cause of global warming and climate change, and  
14 the adverse impact of those activities has increased at an unprecedented rate over the past 50  
15 years; and

16 **Whereas:** According to joint U.S. agency reports, the changes in climate are likely to adversely  
17 impact human health in areas that include, but are not limited to, an increase in:

- 18 • Respiratory ailments, including asthma, due to increased exposure to pollen, mold, air  
19 pollution, aerosolized marine toxins and dust;
- 20 • The incidence of certain cancers due to the increased duration and intensity of  
21 ultraviolet radiation;
- 22 • Foodborne diseases and nutritional deficiencies due to food contamination, shortages  
23 of staple foods, and a reduction in the nutritional value of food due to rising  
24 atmospheric carbon dioxide; and
- 25 • Human developmental issues as a result of prenatal and early childhood in connection  
26 with decreased food supplies, malnutrition and exposure to toxic substances; and



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## Illinois PTA Convention 2017 Resolution

27 **Whereas:** According to a 2016 joint U.S. agency report, climate change is likely to lead to an  
28 increase in extreme weather events (including heat waves, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods,  
29 winter storms, and cold waves) which adversely impact human health, including an increase to  
30 injury, disease and death; and

31 **Whereas:** According to a 2016 joint U.S. agency report, climate change will likely lead to an  
32 increase in infections and disease pathogens in water and food, and via vector-borne means,  
33 due to rising sea levels, changes in temperature extremes, changes in seasonal weather  
34 patterns, and an increase in extreme precipitation and storms; now therefore be it

35 **Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies disseminate information with respect  
36 to the environmental concerns related to climate change and its impact on the health and  
37 welfare of children and youth; and be it further

38 **Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies encourage school districts to consider  
39 the inclusion of renewable energy sources and “green” infrastructure when building or  
40 renovating school district facilities; and be it further

41 **Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA will work with other like-minded organizations to raise  
42 awareness of the impact of climate change on the environment, health and welfare of children  
43 and youth; and be it further

44 **Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support additional evaluations and  
45 research concerning the impact of climate change by independent researchers and agencies;  
46 and be it further

47 **Resolved:** That the Illinois PTA and its constituent bodies support legislation that: regulates  
48 activities that contribute to adverse climate change; mitigates the negative effects of climate  
49 change; supports and encourages the use of renewable energy; and supports efforts to  
50 remediate the existing negative impact of climate change; and be it further

51 **Resolved:** That, as the issues involved in connection with adverse climate change are a national  
52 issue, the Illinois PTA submit this resolution in the appropriate format to the National PTA for  
53 consideration by delegates to the 2018 National PTA convention.

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55 The Illinois PTA Board of Directors has reviewed this Resolution and determined that it meets the  
56 Resolution Criteria.