

Resolution: In Support of Healthy Fundraising and Wellness Policy

Whereas, Obesity rates have tripled in children and teens over the past two decades. More than nine million young people aged six to nineteen years are considered obese; and

Whereas, A nationwide survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 82% of schools sell food to raise money. Of those schools, 75% sell chocolate candy, 67% sell baked goods that are not low fat, and 63% sell non-chocolate candy; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, many schools have found that they can make as much money selling healthy snacks and beverages as unhealthy options; and

Whereas, An increasing number of fundraising companies offer “healthier” or non-food product alternatives, enabling schools to switch easily to selling healthier products; and

Whereas, Selling low-nutrition foods in schools contradicts nutrition education and sends children the message that good nutrition is not important; and

Whereas, School environments should reinforce classroom nutrition education by modeling and supporting healthy behaviors: be it therefore

Resolved, that Georgia PTA will encourage members to participate in their local school wellness committees to assist in the development and implementation of local School Wellness Policies and ensure that healthy school fundraising is addressed; and be it further

Resolved, that Georgia PTA will promote and encourage the use of healthy fundraisers by its constituent organizations. We will highlight fundraisers that include foods that meet the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies' nutrition standards or use non-food fundraisers; and be it further

Resolved, that Georgia PTA will provide a list of healthy fundraising options to local PTAs, and upon request, school administrators, school organizations, and other partners who hold school fundraisers.

Resolution: Legal Education of Georgia's Youth

WHEREAS, the following crimes when committed by minors in Georgia as of 2008 would result in a felony charge against that minor (“felony” defined as a crime resulting in over 12 months imprisonment and over \$1,000 in fines):

- Sex with a person under age 16 (1-20 year imprisonment), and
- Possession or distribution of a controlled substance without a prescription (1-30 year imprisonment), and
- Possession of illegal drugs within 1000 feet of school property (up to 20 year imprisonment), and
- Possession or distribution of more than 1 oz of marijuana (1-10 year imprisonment), and
- Possession or distribution of an illegal drug within 1000 feet of a public park (up to 20 year imprisonment), and
- Aggravated assault (1-20 year imprisonment), and
- Shoplifting over \$300 (1-10 year imprisonment), and
- Destruction of over \$500 of property (1-5 year imprisonment); **and**

WHEREAS, a felony conviction denies a person the right to vote until 10 years after all components of the sentence have been completed; **and**

WHEREAS, a felony conviction has lifelong impact on career opportunities, particularly those careers requiring certification or licensing, including lawyers, doctors, nurses, dentists, physicians’ assistants, law enforcement, and many education positions; **and**

WHEREAS, results of a 12-question test related to Georgia laws given to 750 high schools students showed that a significant majority of students is not aware of Georgia laws affecting teenagers or their consequences, for example:

- 80% of the students who took the test could not provide the correct answers to at least half of the questions, and
- Only 25% of teenagers realized that they become adults under Georgia criminal laws at the age of 17, and
- Only 26% of students were aware of the limited circumstances when an adult can legally give an alcoholic drink to a person under 21, and
- Only 17% of students knew that they could be prosecuted as an adult at the age of 13 for certain crimes; **and**

WHEREAS, the lack of knowledge by Georgia youth about the potential life-altering consequences of committing crimes as minors creates significant risk to their potential for a productive adulthood; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it is imperative that Georgia middle and high school students are educated about the laws that apply to them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Georgia PTA and its constituent units work in tandem with local school boards and school systems to infuse information about laws affecting Georgia teens into required curriculum at middle and high schools. and be it further

RESOLVED, that Georgia PTA will encourage PTAs in schools to develop and implement a student legal education program to inform students about their rights.

Resolution: Support for Social Host Laws

WHEREAS, despite current laws prohibiting underage drinking, youth use alcohol six times more than tobacco and all other illicit drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, 40% of underage drinkers received free alcohol from an adult; and

WHEREAS, one in 16 underage drinkers received alcohol from a parent or guardian; and

WHEREAS, 30.3% of underage drinkers were in their own home and 53.4% were at someone else's home when they had their last drink; and

WHEREAS, one in 12 parents of teens said they allowed the friends of their own teen to drink in their home under their supervision; and

WHEREAS, private home parties have repeatedly been the primary source by which underage youth obtain alcohol, where other drug use, risky sexual behaviors, violence and vandalism may often also occur; and

WHEREAS, social host policies refer to three distinct types of laws that hold non-commercial individuals responsible for the illegal supply of alcohol consumed or possessed by minors, and/or underage drinking events on property they own, lease, or otherwise control; and

WHEREAS, current research establishes social host laws among the most effective forms of public policy in reducing youth binge drinking and drinking and driving. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Georgia PTA recognizes the seriousness of adults providing youth access to alcohol and strongly urges parents and adults to stop "social hosting", defined as adults who allow underage drinking to occur on their property and/or supply alcohol consumed or possessed by minor; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that Georgia PTA, its districts, councils, and local units will support policy, enforcement and education activities aimed at deterring adults from supplying the alcohol and/or the place needed for underage drinking parties; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that Georgia PTA, its districts, councils, and local units are encouraged to work with State and local legislators and law enforcement agencies to advocate for social host laws; criminal and civil state laws, and recovery of response costs through local ordinances.

Resolution: Teacher Preparation for Parent/Family Engagement

- Whereas,** The PTA mission is three fold: a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child, and
- Whereas,** Studies indicate parent/family engagement in education increases a child's chances for success in school; and
- Whereas,** Many colleges and universities do not connect the importance of parent/family engagement in the schools; and
- Whereas,** Undergraduate and graduate curriculum for training teachers how to effectively involve and include parents/families in education is not widely offered by colleges and universities throughout our state; and
- Whereas,** The Professional Standards Commission does not require parent/family engagement training for the issuance of a teaching certificate nor for the renewal of a certificate, and therefore it be
- Resolved,** That Georgia PTA supports a requirement in teacher preparation for parent/family engagement; and be it further
- Resolved,** That Georgia PTA is encouraged to work with the Georgia Universities and Colleges of Education to develop and require for graduation specific training to effectively involve and include parent/family engagement in the educational process of their children; and be it further
- Resolved,** Georgia PTA and local units are encouraged to work with school districts across Georgia to implement teacher education programs to include parent/family engagement in the schools, to inform all existing teachers and update with new research and programs; and be it further
- Resolved,** Georgia PTA is encouraged to work with Georgia Professional Standards Commission to require parent/family engagement training for teacher certification and re-certification.