

2010 LEGISLATION PLATFORM FOR ADOPTION

Preamble, General Principles and Legislation Planks

In even-numbered years convention delegates adopt the California State PTA Legislation Platform. After thorough study, the California State PTA Board of Managers recommends that the Preamble, General Principles, and Legislation Planks be adopted as proposed. The Board of Managers recommends a new General Principle number three, renumbering the remaining principles. Also, a new plank number 20 is being recommended for adoption. Word(s) to be struck are shown with a strikethrough and new wording is underlined.

Rationale: Structural reform in governance and the state budget are critical if PTA is to have any success in advancing our legislative priorities. The Board of Managers identified a need to establish clear PTA authority to allow PTA to fully engage in discussions of governance and budget reform at the state level.

4.2.4 Legislation Platform

4.2.4a PREAMBLE

The legislation program of the California Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, Inc., is derived from the work of the PTA in home, school, and community.

PTA efforts “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth” are based upon recognition of the home as the foundation of our society, the responsibility of the PTA for parent education, the appreciation of our national heritage, the observance and understanding of the rights and obligations of responsible citizenship, and the realization that maintaining a free and public education system is the cornerstone of democracy.

4.2.4b GENERAL PRINCIPLES

General Principles for Consideration of Proposed Legislation

1. Equal justice, equal privileges, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities in every phase of life for all children and youth, while recognizing that each child is unique with individual needs and talents.
2. High standards for those who work in all areas concerned with children and youth.

3. Effective governance systems and practices that place a high priority on the needs of children and youth.

~~3.~~ 4. Coordination and planning by all agencies with clear definition of responsibility at each level of government.

4. 5. Establishment of and adherence to fiscal responsibility in government, with concern for fair taxation but keeping priorities for the needs of all children and youth foremost.

~~5.~~ 6. Adherence to strict ethical practices in political campaigns and at all levels of government.

~~6.~~ 7. Strong and broadly-based tax structures at state and local levels.

~~7.~~ 8. Budgets and financial support to provide needed public services for all children and youth with the continued constitutional guarantee of financial support for public schools as the first claim on all state revenues in the general fund.

~~8.~~ 9. Maximum local control when it serves the best interest of all children and youth.

4.2.4c LEGISLATION PLANKS

The California State PTA will support legislation:

1. To provide the most comprehensive and diversified education possible for all

- children, youth and adults: education that will achieve quality and excellence, encourage maximum individual development, and provide equal educational opportunity for each student.
2. To secure financing for public education that will be sufficient to provide optimum educational opportunity for all students including state aid to school districts for building purposes as well as state funds to cover excess costs of all programs mandated by the Legislature.
 3. To attain quality counseling and guidance services, school health services and library services, provided by credentialed personnel at all educational levels.
 4. To ensure pre-service and in-service teacher preparation programs, remuneration, supportive services and professional development designed to attract and retain qualified men and women in the teaching profession.
 5. To provide guidelines for assessing competence in the teaching profession, and to provide for due process in dismissal procedures.
 6. To encourage state, county, regional, and local school district organizations and public educational governance structures that effectively serve the needs of all students and maximize efficient delivery of services.
 7. To include parents/guardians in decisions that affect the education and well-being of their children, and to promote their involvement in their children's education and schools.
 8. To give students the skills they need to become effective citizens and parents.
 9. To protect and improve the health of all families through the prevention, treatment and control of disease.
 10. To extend and improve physical and mental health services and facilities, including rehabilitation.
 11. To protect families from unsafe, impure or ineffective drugs, foods, medical devices and cosmetics.
 12. To prevent, control or eliminate hazards to the health, safety and well-being of all children and youth.
 13. To require state and local government to publicize and disseminate information regarding issues affecting the public's well-being.
 14. To provide effective community services and facilities for all children, youth and adults, directed toward the well-being of the family.
 15. To promote public policy that contributes to the stability of families and to adequate physical, emotional and financial support of children and youth.
 16. To provide services and facilities for the care, protection and treatment of abused, dependent, neglected or abandoned children and youth.
 17. To secure specialized programs for the prevention of crimes and misdemeanors committed by juveniles.
 18. To provide adequate facilities and services for the treatment, education and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.
 19. To promote public policies that protect and conserve natural resources and provide a quality environment for present and future generations.
 20. To improve governance systems and practices in order to effectively serve the needs of children and youth.