

California State
PTA[®]
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Convention Chronicle

VOLUME 32 • FOR DELEGATES TO THE 109TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA STATE PTA CONVENTION • MARCH 2008

CALL to Convention: *The California State PTA hereby calls upon its membership to send duly accredited delegates to the 109th Annual Convention in Long Beach, May 1-4, 2008.*



Pam Brady, President

The California State PTA Proudly Presents the 109th Annual Convention at the Long Beach Convention Center on May 1-4

We encourage you to experience your convention! This year's convention is at the Long Beach Convention Center. One of the most valuable experiences of convention is the opportunity to meet other PTA members throughout the state who are committed to children's issues just like you. By attending convention, you will not only meet other PTA members, you will be able to share best practices with them.



Charlene Pendergraft, Vice President for Convention

Our annual convention provides an opportunity for members to hone their PTA skills by selecting and attending workshops. The Board of Managers has planned over 88 workshops to help you grow and learn. Workshop choices range from PTA basics to more advanced matters, as well as workshops that address important current issues.

As a voting delegate, you will help guide this organization. Your voice and your concerns will be heard. We will be reviewing and discussing five resolutions and revision of the Legislation Platform. This year, we are increasing the General Sessions to six but in shorter duration to allow more time to hear from our members about important issues. Several statewide officials are scheduled to speak as well as keynote speakers Craig Scott and Erin Gruwell. On Sunday, we will celebrate the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week and listen to the Teacher of the Year. If you are not a voting delegate you will still have the opportunity to meet other members, hear the discussion, attend workshops, and listen to fabulous speakers.

We look forward to meeting and speaking with each of you. Our special event this year is on the first night and is in celebration of everything that PTA accomplishes throughout the state. Please introduce yourself and give us the opportunity to meet with you at the Long Beach Aquarium! *everychild.onevoice.*

La PTA de California orgullosamente anuncia su 109 Convención Anual en el Centro de Convenciones de Long Beach, del 1 al 4 de mayo

¡Lo instamos a ser parte de su convención! Este año la realizaremos en el Centro de Convenciones de Long Beach. Una de las experiencias más valiosas en la convención es la oportunidad de conocer a otros miembros de la PTA del estado comprometidos –al igual que usted– con los temas relacionados con los niños. Al asistir a la convención, no solamente conocerá a otros miembros sino que también podrá compartir con ellos lo más valioso que hacen.

Nuestra convención anual también proporciona la oportunidad de que los miembros afinen sus destrezas relacionadas con su labor en la PTA seleccionando y asistiendo a los talleres. La Junta de Gerentes ha planificado más de 88 talleres para ayudarlo a crecer y aprender. La selección de talleres va desde lo básico de la PTA hasta temas más avanzados, así como los que tocan temas actuales de importancia.

Como delegado con voto, ayudará a guiar a esta organización. Se escucharán su elección y sus inquietudes. Examinaremos y hablaremos sobre cinco resoluciones y revisaremos la Plataforma Legislativa. Este año aumentaremos las sesiones plenarias a seis, de menor duración, a fin de permitir a nuestros afiliados dar a conocer su opinión sobre temas de importancia. Se dirigirán a nosotros varios funcionarios estatales, así como los oradores clave Craig Scott y Erin Gruwell. El domingo celebraremos la Semana de Apreciación del Maestro, que se aproxima. Aun si no es delegado con voto, tendrá la oportunidad de conocer a otros afiliados, asistir a las pláticas, tomar parte en los talleres y escuchar a fenomenales oradores.

Esperamos ver y hablar con cada uno de ustedes. Nuestro evento especial de este año es la primera noche, para celebrar todo lo que la PTA logra a todo lo largo y ancho del estado. ¡Venga y dénos la oportunidad de conocerlo en el Acuario de Long Beach! *cadaniño.unavoz.*

CONVENTION AT A GLANCE – CELEBRATE PTA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS/PTA STORE

THURSDAY, MAY 1	FRIDAY, MAY 2	SATURDAY, MAY 3	SUNDAY, MAY 4
<p>7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Registration</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. PTA Store Exhibits</p> <p>10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Workshops Student Orientation</p> <p>1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Legislation Hearing Resolutions Hearing</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Registration</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. PTA Store Exhibits</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Legislation Hearing Resolutions Hearing</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Workshops</p>	<p>6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Healthy Walk</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Registration</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. PTA Store Exhibits</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Resolutions Hearing</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Workshops</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration</p> <p>7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Resolutions Hearing</p> <p>7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. PTA Store</p>
<p>FIRST GENERAL MEETING 2:45 p.m. Doors Open</p> <p>3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Business of the Organization Procession of Board of Managers Posting of Colors Introduction of Board of Directors</p> <p>Greetings: Pam Brady, State PTA President Jan Domene, National PTA President Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent Flunk the Budget Not Our Children Entertainment Registration Committee Report Rules and Regulations Introduction of: District Presidents Introduction of New Units/Councils</p>	<p>SECOND GENERAL MEETING 10:00 a.m. Doors Open</p> <p>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Business of the Organization Dr. David Long, Secretary of Education My PTA/PTSA Awards – Units Legislation Committee Report Resolutions Committee Report</p>	<p>FOURTH GENERAL MEETING 10:00 a.m. Doors Open</p> <p>10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Business of the Organization Entertainment Introduction of: Past State Presidents Resolutions Committee Report</p>	<p>SIXTH GENERAL MEETING Teacher Appreciation Week Celebrating Teachers, Administrators, and Staff **</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Doors Open</p> <p>9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Business of the Organization Introduction of: Education Coalition Partners Teacher of the Year Reflections Program Winners: • Literature • Visual Arts Registration Committee Final Report Resolutions Committee Report President's Report Closing Speaker: Erin Gruwell Freedom Writers Foundation Invitation to 2009 Convention San Jose Convention Center Closing Inspiration Retiring of the Colors Adjournment</p>
<p>7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. CELEBRATE PTA! PTA Dinner and Dancing Event: AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC</p> <p>6:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. PTA Shuttle Bus Service Between Event and PTA Hotels: Courtyard Marriott Hyatt Regency Renaissance Westin</p>	<p>THIRD GENERAL MEETING Celebrating Students* 3:30 p.m. Doors Open</p> <p>4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.* Business of the Organization Reflections Program Winners: • Music Composition • Dance Choreography Resolutions Committee Report Guest Speaker: Craig Scott – Rachel's Challenge Pictorial</p>	<p>FIFTH GENERAL MEETING Celebrating the Arts 3:30 p.m. Doors Open</p> <p>4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Business of the Organization Reflections Program Winners: • Film/Video Production • Photography My PTA/PTSA Awards – Councils Membership Awards Membership Challenge</p>	<p>**Invite teachers & administrators from local area to attend Sixth General Meeting</p>
	<p>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Meet & Greet: State PTA Board of Managers National PTA Representatives and Convention Sponsors in Exhibit Hall & Lobby</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. PTA Store & Exhibits</p> <p>*Invite students from local area to attend Third General Meeting</p>	<p>DISTRICT & COUNCIL EVENTS</p>	

General Information

PARKING AT THE LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

Hours of Operation

The standard open hours of the Convention Center parking lots and garages are: Monday-Friday 6:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Saturday-Sunday 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM. During Convention Center events the lots are open two (2) hours prior to opening of doors and one-half hour after the event. The main lot remains closed unless there are events, and then the same hours are in effect.

Rates

Autos: \$8.00; Buses: \$24.00.

Entrances

The Long Beach Convention Center has three parking garages: the Terrace Theater Parking Garage, the Arena Parking Garage and the Promenade Parking Garage. The Promenade Parking Garage is open for conventions, trade shows and special events. It has 350 parking spaces. The Terrace Theater Parking Garage is generally open for theater events and has 800 parking spaces. The Arena Parking Garage is open for conventions, trade shows and arena events and has 1,460 parking spaces. The Main Lot and Elephant Lot are located off of Shoreline Drive (1,500 spaces).

All PTA hotels are within walking distance to the convention center; it is approximately a 10-15 minute walk from the Courtyard Marriott and Westin. Parking rates vary by hotel.

CITY TRANSPORTATION

Free Passport shuttle in downtown connects you to all must-see Long Beach attractions. The Metro Blue Line train and a Long Beach Transit bus system also can get you to and around Long Beach.

HOTEL SHUTTLE BUSES

Shuttle services will not be provided to any hotel except on Thursday, May 1, from 6:30 PM until 11:30 PM for the CELEBRATE PTA event at the Aquarium of the Pacific. This service will be provided to all PTA hotels.

STUDENTS

Each student attending as a delegate or non-voting registrant must present a signed *Parents Approval and Consent to Treatment* form when registering. These can be obtained at www.capta.org by clicking on the Convention button.

STUDENT ORIENTATION HOURS

California State PTA invites students to register for convention. Convention offers students a great way to build leadership skills, have a voice in state issues, and interact with PTA members from around the state. There will be special activities, including a student orientation on Thursday, May 1, from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, to prepare students for convention and give them a chance to talk with other students throughout the state.

Arrive on time so you won't miss a minute of our student experience!

FIRE MARSHALL REGULATIONS

To comply with Fire Marshall Regulations and the safety of our convention attendees, all carts and bags must be placed under chairs or in the assigned area of the general meeting. All aisles must be kept clear. There is no secure location to store personal items. The California State PTA is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

EVALUATIONS

The California State PTA Board of Managers strives to provide convention delegates with information and skills that will be useful in your leadership and advocacy efforts on behalf of children and youth in California. We need your help in order to improve future conventions.

You will be given a short evaluation form at each workshop you attend, which should be completed and submitted before leaving the workshop. You will also find a convention evaluation form in the program booklet you receive upon registering.

Please complete and return the workshop session evaluations and the overall conven-

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tion evaluation form. At the end of convention, look for collection boxes in the vicinity of the General Meeting Room and deposit your completed form there.

Each evaluation is read and the responses are compiled, shared with the Board of Managers, and used to plan the following year's convention and workshops. Please help us better meet your needs by sharing your suggestions and feedback. Your opinion matters – your response is valuable to us. Thank you!

Motion Review Station

A Motion Review Station will be located in the General Meeting Room to assist delegates during the consideration of business items. Convention Motion Forms will be available at this station.

If a delegate wishes to amend the proposed legislation platform as printed in the Convention Chronicle or presented at a Legislation Hearing, an "Intent to Amend" notice must be filed in advance at the Legislation Hearing, or with the Motion Review Station by 6:00 PM the day prior to the consideration of the item of business.

Delegates wishing to amend a resolution as presented in the Convention Chronicle or

presented at a Resolutions Hearing or Resolutions 2008 Workshop must file an "Intent to Amend" notice in advance at the Hearing or Workshop, or at the Motion Review Station at least three (3) hours prior to consideration.

A motion to amend may be permitted without the required written notice only if it results from new information that came after the deadline or because the resolution has been changed substantially by other amendments. Delegates presenting such amendments must first go to the Motion Review Station before proceeding to the microphone.

Delegate Responsibilities

Attend all meetings and conferences of the convention.

You are the elected convention delegate representing your local PTA. Your unit, council or district is depending upon you to represent them and vote on their behalf.

Arrive on time and remain until adjourned.

Wear your convention badge at all times.

You will not be admitted to the convention floor, exhibits or to the conferences without it.

Be courteous.

Give attention to the speaker who has the floor. Keep side conversations to a minimum. Others are trying to listen. Turn cell phones OFF or silence them.

Be friendly.

This is the perfect opportunity to make new friends and get fresh ideas brainstorming with others from around the state!

Dress – Business casual.

Visit the exhibits.

Valuable information on new programs and products for your school and student can be found there.

Take adequate notes.

It is impossible to remember everything. You will return home with a lot of information! Prepare a report for your unit when you get home. It is your responsibility to report back to your unit what you learned. Include events, resolutions, new ideas and the training that your PTA invested in by sending you to convention.

Be sure to share with your unit, council or district all materials that you bring home.

Most of all – Have a Good Time!

Your responsibilities continue throughout the year. Help your unit, council or district improve by applying what you have learned at the California State PTA convention.

Information and Lost & Found

Questions? Lost? Just a little confused? Come by the Information and Lost & Found Booth. We will do our best to answer questions or ease your fears. If we don't have the answer, we will do our best to get it for you. Here are some of the services provided:

- Lost items and found items—check for lost items at the booth and turn in items found.
- Information about your district (e.g., If you have a suite and the location of the suite, in which hotel your district is housed, the location for your district dinner, etc.).
- Maps and attractions in and around Long Beach.
- Restaurants in and around the Convention Center.
- Bus or shuttle transportation in and around Long Beach.
- Delegate message board to leave or receive messages.

We have worked hard to make your attendance at this convention pleasant and memorable. Please stop by the Information and Lost & Found Booth if you have any questions, or just to say "Hello." We would love to meet each of you in person. Have a wonderful time, and WELCOME TO LONG BEACH!

PTA Store

Plan to shop at the California State PTA Store while at convention. The PTA Store has a complete line of the latest PTA/PTSA merchandise and supplies for your association. Present a professional look with our exclusive PTA/PTSA branded merchandise. Many of the PTA supplies may be an approved budget item and can be reimbursed. You may also visit the California State PTA Store at www.captastore.com or call 877.841.2393.

PTA STORE HOURS

Wednesday	April 30	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Thursday	May 1	7:00 AM - 10:30 AM 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Friday	May 2	7:00 AM - 10:30 AM 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Saturday	May 3	7:00 AM - 10:30 AM 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Sunday	May 4	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Convention Shirts & Pins Preorder and SAVE!

California State PTA is offering a special discounted price on two promo packages which include either a convention T-shirt & pin or a convention sport shirt & pin (see pricing & sizes below). Each convention shirt and pin package ordered in advance will save you money when buying the items separately. Indicate the number of packages you want to preorder on your registration form, including size of the shirts. At registration,

you will receive a ticket for the shirt/pin promo pack you purchase redeemable at the PTA Store. Make sure you buy ahead as these hot items will sell fast at convention; shirt size availability is not guaranteed onsite. Preorder is the only way to get these items packaged together at this low price.

2008 PIN	Promo Pack 1	Promo Pack 2
	Convention Pin T-shirt - Aquatic Blue	Convention Pin Sport Shirt - Royal Blue
S-M-L-XL	\$12.00	\$25.00
XXL	\$14.00	\$27.00
3XL	\$15.00	\$29.00

You MUST bring the following to convention registration:

- your current PTA membership card
- your bar-coded confirmation letter

• Awards • Awards • Awards • Awards • Awards • Awards •

You will want to attend the General Meetings to see the MY PTA/PTSA Award winners and "Awards of Excellence" Reflections Program winners.

The My PTA/PTSA Awards will be presented at the following General Meetings:

- Session 2 (10:30 AM on Friday) - The Unit Awards
- Session 5 (4:00 PM on Saturday) - The Council Awards



The Reflections Program Awards will be presented at the following General Meetings:

- Session 3 (4 :00 PM on Friday) - Music Composition & Dance Choreography
- Session 5 (4:00 PM on Saturday) - Film/Video Production & Photography
- Session 6 (9:00 PM on Sunday) - Literature & Visual Arts



Don't miss a single session—see you there!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

CELEBRATE PTA!

Thursday, May 1, 7:00 PM-11:00 PM

A fun-filled evening is planned for delegates to socialize and relax. This year's special event will be held at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. Enjoy a buffet dinner, dancing and fun. Tickets cost \$35.00 per adult and \$20.00 per child 3-11 and include private admission to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Order ticket(s) on the registration form; tickets will not be available for purchase on-site as seating is limited. Busing will be provided to and from this event to all PTA hotels from 6:30 PM - 11:30 PM on May 1 only.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES IN ACTION WALK

Saturday, May 3, 6:00 AM-7:30 AM

Join California State PTA's *Healthy Lifestyles in Action Walk* to demonstrate your commitment to healthy living and the healthy living programs PTAs provide for their communities. The walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008, from 6:00 AM - 7:30 AM. The \$20.00 fee for each participant includes a T-shirt. Tickets will cost \$25.00 beginning April 18. Tickets may be purchased on-site on a space-available basis. Net proceeds will fund grants to be administered by the California State PTA Scholarship and Grant Committee available to all PTAs.

Students and adults must sign a waiver to participate. The adult walk waiver is included on the registration form; a student walk waiver is included on the *Parent/Guardian Approval and Consent to Treatment Form*. Students **must** bring a signed and completed form to registration upon arrival. Forms are available from district PTAs or online at www.capta.org.

NEW FOR 2008 CONVENTION

- We have expanded our general meeting sessions from four to six meetings in an effort to decrease the length of time per session.
- Student entertainment performances will occur during the general meetings so children will have full attention of delegates when performing.
- PTA Store & exhibit hours have increased.
- The California State PTA event this year will "kick-off" convention on May 1 with a private party at the famous Aquarium of the Pacific which includes admission to the aquarium, Bar-B-Q dinner and dancing.
- Registration will provide express lines for those with NO registration changes.
- Registration expedited when proof of membership provided via online, fax or mailed registration.
- Registration fees remain one price from February 4-April 17. The next time to register will be onsite, May 1-4 (onsite rates apply).
- Join us as we celebrate students, arts and teachers at our various general meetings.
- *Why I Joined PTA!* Share with us the reason you joined PTA by bringing a non-returnable 3x5 (maximum) photograph to post on our bulletin board photo collage.

BUSINESS OF THE ORGANIZATION

LEGISLATION PLATFORM FOR ADOPTION

Preamble, General Principles and Legislation Planks

Delegates to convention adopt the California State PTA Legislation Platform every two years. An even-numbered year, 2008, is the year for this adoption to take place. After thorough study, the California State PTA Board of Managers recommends that the Preamble, General Principles, and Legislation Planks 1, 2, and 5 through 15 and existing plank 18 be adopted with no changes. The Board of Managers is recommending changes to Planks 3, 4, 16, and 17. Also a new plank is being recommended for adoption. Word(s) to be struck are shown with a line drawn through and new wording is underlined.

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.

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. Coordination and planning by all agencies with clear definition of responsibility at each level of government.
4. 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. Adherence to strict ethical practices in political campaigns and at all levels of government.
6. Strong and broadly-based tax structures at state and local levels.
7. 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. Maximum local control when it serves the best interest of all children and youth.

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 ~~both~~ pre-service and in-service teacher preparation programs, remuneration, supportive services and professional security development designed to attract and retain qualified men and women ~~and to retain them~~ 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, ~~and~~ 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 ~~as well as for the treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.~~
18. To provide adequate facilities and services for the treatment, education and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.
- ~~18-19.~~ To promote public policies that protect and conserve natural resources and provide a quality environment for present and future generations.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION A

HIV/STD PREVENTION EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS

1 WHEREAS, PTA believes that comprehensive health education that emphasizes disease prevention education is essential for each child to develop to his fullest potential; and

2 WHEREAS, An estimated 1.1 million new cases of sexually transmitted infections (STI) occurred among young persons in California between the ages of 15-24 in 2005, making sexually transmitted diseases (STD) the most commonly reported communicable disease in the state; and

3 WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are often asymptomatic, the true burden of these diseases is many times greater than the number of reported cases; and

4 WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted infections (STI) can have considerable and long lasting impact on the health and quality of life of those individuals infected; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Education Code (EC), Chapter 5.6, sections 51930-51939, California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Act, middle school and once in high school and comprehensive sexual health is authorized, but not required; and

6 WHEREAS, The California EC, Chapter 5.6, section 51933 & 51934 [3] directs that if a school district chooses to teach Comprehensive Sexual Health or the required HIV/AIDS prevention education, sexual abstinence may be taught but instruction and materials about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved contraceptive methods in preventing pregnancy must also be provided; and

7 WHEREAS, Comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education in the schools provides pupils with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases; now therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to support current medically accurate comprehensive sexual health and HIV/STD prevention education in the schools taught by instructors trained in the appropriate courses; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to offer current medically accurate educational programs and materials to parents about comprehensive sexual health and HIV/STD prevention education.

Originating Body – Health Commission, California State PTA

Action by PTA Organizations

California State PTA Board of Managers

Position

Support

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

California State PTA has supported sexually transmitted disease (STD)* prevention education since 1973 and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education since 1988.

Although sexual activity and the number of pregnancies in teens has declined in recent years, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance data from 2005 indicate that 63.1% of high school seniors reported having engaged in sexual behaviors, and the age of onset of sexual activity is shockingly young...6.2% reported sexual intercourse before 13 years of age. Nearly half of new cases of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the United States occur in young people, 15-24 years of age. As a result, about one-third of all sexually active young people become infected with an STD by age 24. Given this large number of individuals who engage in sex in their teenage years, the importance of being proactive in educating our youth about sexuality cannot be emphasized strongly enough. STDs are by far the most commonly reported communicable diseases in California (and in the United States).

A study done in 2005 indicates that an estimated 1.1 million new cases of STI occurred among young persons in California between the ages of 15-24 with a direct medical cost of \$1.1 billion. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can have considerable and long-lasting impact on the health and quality of life of individuals, in the form of infertility, ectopic pregnancies, dyspareunia, cancer, and increased susceptibility to HIV.

The California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act, 2003 authorizes school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education in any kindergarten to grade 12, inclusive, and ensures that all pupils in grades 7-12, inclusive receive HIV/AIDS prevention education. A “comprehensive sexual health education” means education regarding human development and sexuality, including education on pregnancy, family planning, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. “Medically accurate” means verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where appropriate and recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant field, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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* Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are infections that can be transferred from one person to another through any type of sexual contact. STDs are sometimes referred to as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) since they involve the transmission of a disease-causing organism from one person to another during sexual activity.

Resolutions Hearings

Thursday, May 1 – 1:00 to 2:45 PM

Friday, May 2 – 7:00 to 8:00 AM

Saturday, May 3 – 7:00 to 8:00 AM

Sunday, May 4 – 7:30 to 8:30 AM

RESOLUTION B

PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS ON CALIFORNIA'S MEGAN'S LAW REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER DATABASE

1 WHEREAS, The California State PTA is a professional, nonprofit volunteer association committed to and advocating for the safety and welfare of all children, and

2 WHEREAS, A “nonpublic, nonsectarian school” means a school that enrolls individuals with exceptional needs pursuant to an Individualized Education Program and is certified by the California Department of Education; and

3 WHEREAS, The purpose of Megan’s Law is to provide the public with information which will allow them to protect themselves and their families from convicted sex offenders; and

4 WHEREAS, Among other provisions, Proposition 83 of 2006 modified the California Penal Code to restrict convicted sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of a school or park where children gather; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, maintains the Internet accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database that provides information on California’s most serious sex offenders searchable by city, county or zip code, school or park; and

6 WHEREAS, The Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database lists only those nonpublic schools housed on public school campuses; now therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts advocate that the Internet accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database maintained by Department of

Justice, Office of Attorney General, be updated to include every nonpublic school serving students with exceptional needs, therefore supporting equal access to information that will allow these children and their families to protect themselves from convicted sex offenders.

Originating Body – Discovery Bay Elementary PTA

Action by PTA Organizations

Delta Council PTA

Thirty Second District PTA

California State PTA Board of Managers

Position

Support

Support

Support

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

California State law requires that certain sex offender information be made available to the public on the Internet accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database. However, the web page does not currently list nonpublic schools attended by children with exceptional needs unless the nonpublic school is housed on the campus of a regular public school.

The California State PTA strongly believes state and local governments have an obligation to publicize and disseminate information regarding issues affecting the public’s well-being. PTA further believes that every child is entitled to a safe and peaceful school environment. Californians have a right to know about the presence of sex offenders in their communities, near their schools, and around their children. The inclusion of nonpublic schools serving children with exceptional needs on the Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database will help to protect all children, including those who attend nonpublic schools and those who live or play in their proximity.

###

RESOLUTION C

LOCAL SCHOOL PARCEL TAX MEASURE THRESHOLD REDUCTION

1 WHEREAS, A public education system is the cornerstone of democracy; and

2 WHEREAS, School funding continues to be critically low from the State of California, and while PTAs continue to advocate for increased state-wide funding, additional generation and control of local funding is recognized as providing an important revenue source to support children’s educational needs; and

3 WHEREAS, Delegates to the annual California State PTA convention in 1999 adopted a resolution calling for lowering of the 2/3 vote requirement for school and library bond measures, and in 2000 Proposition 39 was passed by voters to lower the threshold for local school facilities bond measures to 55%; and

4 WHEREAS, A lowering of the threshold to 55% for local school facilities bond measures since Proposition 39 took effect has allowed a significant increase in the passage of such bonds by local communities; and

5 WHEREAS, By law, local school districts are allowed to raise funds for school programs only through parcel taxes; and

6 WHEREAS, Local parcel tax campaigns are difficult to pass because of the two-thirds threshold; thus many school districts do not attempt a campaign or are forced to conduct multiple campaigns; now therefore be it resolved

1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA actively support and/or partner with coalitions to support legislation and ballot measures to lower the requirement of a 2/3 threshold presently required to pass local school parcel tax measures to a 55% supermajority; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That District, Council and Unit PTAs support legislation and ballot measures to lower the requirement of a 2/3 threshold presently required to pass local school parcel tax measures to a 55% supermajority.

Originating Body – San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

Action by PTA Organizations

Thirty Second District PTA

California State PTA Board of Managers

Position

Support

Support

Resolution C

Local School Parcel Tax Measure Threshold Reduction

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Numerous analyses of California's education finance system conclude that schools are severely under-funded by any measure. Examples of studies and reports include the 23 *Getting Down to Facts Studies, 2007*; *How Does California Compare? – Funding for Public Schools*, California Budget Project, 2007; and various EdSource reports including *Trends and Comparisons in California School Finance, 2007*; and *The Basics of California's School Finance System, 2006*. The history of school finance in California is important for understanding why.

In 1972, California took away the ability of local school boards to levy local property taxes, and established state "revenue limits". In 1978, voters passed Proposition 13, which severely limited increases in property taxes and constrained funds available for education. As part of Proposition 13, however, school districts were allowed to raise local funds through school facilities bonds (for school facilities only) and school parcel taxes, but both needed a 2/3 threshold to pass. This threshold made it very difficult to pass either type of local funding. Parcel taxes are levied with a flat fee per parcel, independent of the assessed value of the property. Funds from a local school parcel tax give a school district not only additional funding for needed programs that would otherwise not be provided, but also give districts the authority to decide how those funds are used.

In 2000, Proposition 39 was passed, a constitutional amendment changing the threshold for local school facilities bonds to a 55% supermajority. Since that time, school districts have found it easier to pass local school facilities bonds, and this has given access to the matching funds provided by the state school facilities bonds. As a result, school facilities have improved dramatically throughout the State.

Local parcel taxes, on the other hand, have remained difficult to pass. According to a California School Finance Report, "From 1983 through November 2006, voters approved 211 parcel taxes in 414 elections; 166 received a majority vote but not the necessary two-thirds approval." Many districts do not attempt a parcel tax measure because of the difficulty of passage and the expense involved.

While PTA advocates for systemic education funding reform, California continues to rank very low in per-pupil spending compared to that of other states, as well as to funding levels deemed necessary by the adequacy studies. Allowing passage of local school parcel taxes by 55% would enhance local control of school programs similar to the improvements made to local school facilities through Proposition 39 and complement education reform. A multi-pronged approach of advocating for systemic reform while simultaneously working toward more feasible near-term solutions is consistent with PTA's policies and positions.

Legislators have attempted to pass a bill to reduce the threshold for local school parcel tax measures to 55% several times over the years, only to be stymied by the two-thirds vote required in the legislature to pass a finance bill. Only a simple majority vote is required to pass a statewide initiative for a constitutional amendment to reduce the local parcel tax measure threshold to 55%, however, and it may be more practical for PTA to work with a coalition to introduce and pass such an initiative.

California is one of very few states in the nation to require a 2/3 vote to pass local school taxes. With the continuing documented inability of the legislature to raise revenues needed for schools and the limits on funding from Proposition 13, facilitating passage of local school parcel tax measures through a lowered threshold is critical for our schools to meet the requirements of a 21st Century education and produce graduates who can compete in the global marketplace.

###

RESOLUTION D

LONGITUDINAL, INTEGRATED STATEWIDE DATA SYSTEM

1 WHEREAS, In 2000 the California State PTA adopted a resolution entitled "Student Assessment, Achievement and Accountability" directing the California State PTA to advocate for the continued development of a comprehensive California State Student Assessment System that equitably measures individual achievement using a student identifier, and that the assessment must be an integral part of the instructional process with the overall goal being the identification of what students know and how well they can apply that knowledge; and

2 WHEREAS, A growing body of research in California provides evidence that systemic analysis and use of data to guide instruction is a key factor for the improvement of student outcomes, achievement in high-poverty schools, and a move toward closing the achievement gap; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the *Getting Down to Facts* study, the lack of data and information in California significantly impedes the efforts of state and local decision-makers to improve resource allocation and guide school improvement activities and classroom instruction, which is critical to the education reform supported by the California State PTA; and

4 WHEREAS, California has repeatedly failed to make the financial investment needed to support a comprehensive, longitudinal inte-

grated data system, inclusive of all local education agencies that adequately tracks students and programs; now therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA, and its units, councils, and districts work to educate public policy makers, PTA members, and community members about the critical need for a longitudinal, integrated statewide data system that tracks individual student achievement over time; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils, and districts advocate that the state develop a longitudinal, integrated statewide data system designed to:

- provide formative assessments that provide data that can guide instructional practices at the classroom level,
- make key data regarding school resource allocation and student performance available and understandable to parents and community members and
- meet the requirements for reporting a growth model to the federal government; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA, and its units, councils, and districts advocate for full funding for the design, implementation and maintenance of the data system.

Resolution D
Longitudinal, Integrated Statewide Data System

Originating Body – Glendale Council PTA
Action by PTA Organizations
First District PTA
Education Commission, California State PTA
California State PTA Board of Managers

Position
Support
Support
Support

Background Summary

In the past decade, California has made significant progress toward making important and relevant school and district data available to educators and the public. Databases, such as the California Basic Education Data System (CBEDS) and student achievement data (including average test scores, Academic Performance Index (API), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and Program Improvement status) are publicly accessible and provide important information on school

performance, teacher and student demographics, and subgroup performance.

Despite these efforts, California still falls short of a comprehensive and easily accessed system with longitudinally-linked, student-level data. Schools, districts, and the state are unable to track the progress of students over time, link that progress to program participation or teacher, or accurately determine key benchmarks such as dropout, graduation, or student mobility rates. California is also unable to track the progress of students who graduate from high school, leave high school early, transfer to other schools or districts, or attend post-secondary institutions.

As a result, evaluation and accountability measures, both at the local and state levels are severely hampered. Without an effective student tracking system, California is significantly limited in its ability to determine the effectiveness of local policies, programs, and practices aimed at improving student learning and achievement.

###

RESOLUTION E
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN

1 WHEREAS, The number of children walking and bicycling to schools in the U.S. has declined over the past 40 years partially due to the rise in the number of children being driven to school in private cars during the morning peak-hour traffic; and

2 WHEREAS, Schools are not built to handle high volume traffic and people are often in a hurry, creating unsafe drop-off practices; and

3 WHEREAS, The concentration of pollutants from cars and trucks has adverse effects on health, such as decreased lung development, susceptibility to allergies, and asthma of our children and youth; and

4 WHEREAS, When new schools are built on the fringes of communities children need to be driven to school and cannot walk or bicycle to school; and

5 WHEREAS, Bicycling and walking to school can have a positive mental and physical impact on the health of children and youth; and

6 WHEREAS, The Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program empowers communities to address the afore mentioned issues, to make walking and bicycling to school safe, and to improve routes to schools; now therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts urge legislators and local government agencies to support funding for more adult crossing guards and the implementation of engineering improvements around schools, such as traffic calming measures, improved street crossings, sidewalks, bike lanes and walkways to create safer routes to school; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts advocate for stronger enforcement of existing traffic laws (including speed limits, yielding to pedestrians, etc), and advocate for new laws to enhance the safety of children walking and bicycling to schools; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to partner with school district staff and community groups to implement Safe Routes to School activities including pedestrian and bicycle safety education and programs that encourage safe walking and bicycling to school; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to encourage school districts to preserve established neighborhood schools wherever possible and locate new schools near where students live so they can double as community centers.

Originating Body – Fifteenth District PTA
Action by PTA Organizations
California State PTA Board of Managers

Position
Support

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Most of us remember walking or riding our bikes to school when we were young. Today, however, the picture is far different. The number of children walking and bicycling to schools has declined sharply from about 50% in 1969 to approximately 15% today. In parts of California, up to 85% of all children arrive at school in a private automobile.

The concentration of cars around schools results in congestion, pollution, severe impacts on neighborhoods and safety risks to the children. As schools are not built to handle so much traffic and people are often in a hurry, unsafe drop-off practices are widespread.

Health professionals are alarmed at the steep increase in the number of overweight and obese children in this country. As a result, health problems like Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, once the domain of adults, are now seen increasingly in children. In part, this condition is due to a lack of physical activity. Children who, a generation ago, enjoyed regular daily exercise from getting around on their own feet or wheels, now are being driven everywhere by their parents. These unhealthful habits, set in childhood, are likely to carry over into adult life and result in lifelong health problems and well as increased traffic congestion and energy use.

The International Safe Routes to School Movement is gathering momentum to reverse this trend. It takes a multi-pronged approach that can be described under the four E's: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Encouragement. State and national policy makers are providing funding for Safe Routes to School projects and programs. Increasing the number of children and youth walking and bicycling to school is one of the Healthy People 2010 objectives. It is time for PTA as the premier advocate for all children to become a leader in the effort of enabling our children to walk and bike to school safely.

###

Speakers & Special Guests



**First General Meeting:
May 1, 3:15 PM - 6:00 PM**

**Jan Domene, National PTA President
& Past California State PTA President**

Greetings from Jan:

I started my PTA work in California 31 years ago and never dreamed that I would be back years later as National PTA president. It is my pleasure to be coming home and joining you at our 109th California State PTA Convention. I cannot wait to meet and greet all of you as we learn together and explore the great opportunities convention holds for us. Networking, engagement, motivation, knowledge, leadership development and a bounty of new and exciting ideas to take back and share with your boards, students, schools and communities await you. Please join me at the "Meet and Greet" (Friday, May 2, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM) at convention and let me know what is happening in your PTA and share with me your expectations and excitement. I look forward to seeing you in Long Beach, May 1-4, 2008.



**Third General Meeting:
May 2, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Craig Scott, "A Story of Inspiration,
Courage, and Kindness"**

Craig is the younger brother of Rachel Scott, a remarkable young lady who believed her life would have an impact on the world with her acts of kindness and compassion. Craig

Scott was in the library the day of the Columbine tragedy, where he witnessed 10 of his schoolmates killed, including two of his close friends. Since then, he has gone on to speak out and educate children and adults alike with his inspiring and life-changing story.



**Sixth General Meeting:
May 4, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Erin Gruwell, Educator and Catalyst
for Social Change**

Erin's story tracks an idealistic young woman who believed in her high school English students, most of whom had been written off by the education system. Aside

from Erin, nobody thought these "troubled" kids would even graduate high school. But Erin encouraged them to become much more. She forced them to question long-held racial stereotypes, address their deepest struggles, and ultimately re-chart their futures. With Erin's support, they chose to forego teenage pregnancy, drugs, alcohol, and violence to become friends, storytellers, published writers, college students, and hopeful young adults. Their story earned Erin and her students' dozens of awards, including the Spirit of Anne Frank Award. In January 2007, Paramount Pictures released the feature film *Freedom Writers* to national acclaim, starring two-time Oscar winner Hilary Swank as Erin.



**Sixth General Meeting:
May 4, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Lewis Chappellear,
2008 California Teacher of the Year**

Lewis Chappellear is one of the five 2008 California Teachers of the Year, but the only one chosen by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell to represent California in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

For the past seven years, Mr. Chappellear has taught engineering and design at James Monroe High School in North Hills in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He has two graduate degrees in engineering, but took one career detour en route to his chosen profession. Eight years ago he was, in his own words, a "burnt-out, unsatisfied restaurant owner in Toronto" in search of a change. He decided to move to Los Angeles and try teaching.

At Monroe, he was assigned algebra, but wanted a subject closer to his engineering background. He pleaded with school administrators until they relented and added a single electronics class to his course load. The early going he describes as "rough," but today Monroe's School of Engineering and Design exists as a 350-student learning community within the high school, where students can earn credit for both college and high school courses online through a partnership with California State University-Northridge.

Come and hear this inspiring teacher at the Sixth General Meeting on Sunday morning, May 4. Teachers are invited to attend this meeting free of charge.

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2327 L Street
Sacramento 95816-5014

PH: (916) 440-1985 • FAX: (916) 440-1986

World Wide Web address <www.capta.org>

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President: Pam Brady

Vice President for Convention: Charlene Pendergraft

Vice President for Communications: Carol Kocivar

Editor: Shirley Gold

Executive Director: Paul Richman

Design: Pat Ruiz



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