

## 18.11 Common School Construction Funding

*Resolution passed 1991; amended 2019*

**Whereas**, all Washington state children and youth need school facilities that can support the technological, scientific, cultural, social, and other educational programs that will prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century; and

**Whereas**, students deserve to learn in school facilities that are safe, up-to-date in all building and construction codes, with flexible and appropriate spaces and design to support, enhance, and deliver the educational programs desired by the local community; and

**Whereas**, the benefits for school facility investments include increased attendance, improved student performance, and reduced truancy and suspension rates; and

**Whereas**, Washington state's traditional source of revenue from the tax on the state timber sales for school construction no longer provides a stable source of funding, and the state faces a backlog of modernization, remodeling, and new school construction projects; and

**Whereas**, the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) does not cover the cost of portables, contributes only a small part of the cost to build safe and healthy schools that support learning, and the SCAP median space allocation formula is below the national median and has not been updated since 2006; and

**Whereas**, eligibility for SCAP assistance is dependent on school districts securing local funds, usually through school construction bonds, and less than 45% of school construction bonds have obtained the required 60% supermajority since 2006; and

**Whereas**, Washington state's current capital budget does not ensure the construction of classrooms to meet state policies of all-day kindergarten and smaller K-3 and career and technical education class sizes, and the burden of underfunding falls harder on property-poor districts, in the form of higher property tax rates on school construction bonds.

**Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will support efforts that will provide stable and timely financing for permanent school construction, to address capacity, growth, class size reduction, modernization, and safety needs; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will advocate to update the School Construction Assistance Program formulas to provide an updated construction cost allocation and square footage allocation that recognize modern educational needs and alternative facility usage.