

18.18 Reduction in Class Size

Resolution passed 1995; amended 2013

Whereas, an objective of Washington State PTA is to “promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship;” and

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of Washington states that the “paramount duty” of the state is to provide “ample funds” for schools; and

Whereas, Washington state has the fifth-highest student-teacher ratio in the United States; and

Whereas, small class size provides teachers with increased monitoring of student behavior and learning, more in-depth teaching basic content, more opportunities for children to engage in firsthand learning activities, a more detailed knowledge of each child’s needs as a learner, and more time to meet individual learners’ needs using a variety of teaching styles; and

Whereas, the benefits of small class sizes are evident and consistent throughout inner-city, urban, suburban, and rural locations. However, in Washington state, average class size varies widely from district to district because of differences in school board policies, administrative practices, and funding (levy passage or failure).

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its members will actively support/initiate legislation to reduce certified classroom teacher/student ratios; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will provide information to its members, the media, and government officials on the benefits to society of reducing class size; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will assist and educate its members in the necessary skills to work within the site-based management structure of education reform to advocate for small class size as an essential element for increasing student achievement.