

## 18.27 No Child Left Behind and the 1%

*Resolution passed 2010*

**Whereas**, NCLB has determined that the 1 percent population are those children who display the “most significant cognitive disabilities,” have the right to access the general education curriculum and should be assessed with these standards; and

**Whereas**, Washington State PTA finds that children develop at vastly different rates and have different learning styles, exhibiting differing strengths and weaknesses, and yet the one percent are held to the same cognitive, grade-based standards as every other child is in Washington state; and

**Whereas**, several well-respected education organizations including the American Educational Research Association urge that, “decisions that affect individual students’ life chances or educational opportunities should not be made based on test scores alone; other relevant information should be taken into account to enhance the overall validity of such decisions;” and

**Whereas**, policymakers at all levels of government need to understand that the students in the one percent are unique and do not meet any of the educational standards set forth in NCLB; and

**Whereas**, policymakers at the district, state, and federal levels know that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for this Special Education population by law. The IEP team includes the student, the parents, and the professionals and teachers that know the student.

### **Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will work to enact policies that create an appropriate Alternate Assessment system with high standards and multiple ways for students to demonstrate learning of appropriate skills to their educational needs; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will support the IEP Team’s right to use their professional judgment, and not the predetermined standards legislated in NCLB, to help students be successful, even if this means that the student is working toward different standards than reading, writing, and math, so they can be successful members of our community; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will support a more accurate data collection to determine better who the one percent is and how big a percent of the total they are.