

4.7 Public School Dropout Prevention/Retrieval

Resolution passed 1988; amended 2007; amended 2013

Whereas, Washington State PTA has a purpose to “engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth”; and

Whereas, an unacceptable percentage of Washington state’s students do not finish high school on schedule; and

Whereas, dropping out of school is one of the strongest predictors of decreased employment opportunities, lower lifetime earnings potential and increased chances of incarceration; and

Whereas, receiving a high school diploma is a vital connection to society and the economy, and it is a required credential for most jobs in America; and

Whereas, obstacles to successful dropout prevention/retrieval programs include budget constraints, overcrowded schools and classes, difficulties in the home, poor academic preparation, lack of coordination between schools and social services, and the negative image that accompanies dropout programs.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA work with other members of the education community and social services to commit to effective dropout prevention; and be it further

Resolved, that local PTAs and councils be encouraged to work for and promote effective strategies to keep students in school such as: early referral, assessment and intervention with at-risk youth; techniques and incentives to increase motivation and achievement among at-risk youth; parent and social service involvement in planning and services; programs that improve academic performance; options to assure an appropriate learning environment; programs that help students and adults make connections, providing students with a community of support; programs that link schooling and the realities of work and employment skills; programs that emphasize goal setting and decision making as a key to future options.