18.6 Uninterrupted Operation of Schools

Resolution passed 1986; amended 2006; amended 2024

Whereas, Washington State PTA has among its purposes to "promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth;" and 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, quality education for all students is a high priority for Washington State PTA; and

Whereas, Washington state citizens have historically valued the reliable delivery of vital services and the orderly management of public institutions, including fire and police services and public schools; and

Whereas, Washington State PTA believes that a disruption to the educational system in the form of work stoppages and/or strikes is often not in the best interest of the students and families affected by those actions, while also acknowledging and actively advocating that more state resources must be committed to education in the State of Washington.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall advocate for conditions with regard to the collective bargaining process which will consistently produce, in a timely manner, labor agreements negotiated and fully embraced by all parties, and which will not cause disruption to the school calendar; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall stay neutral during work stoppages and/or strikes which interrupt or disrupt the educational day, but can

- Suggest appropriate action by parents and guardians, community agencies, and volunteer groups that will protect children and youth during the period the school is closed
- Urge immediate and continuous negotiations to get schools open as soon as possible
- Encourage open and transparent communications to inform the community on issues of disagreement and progress of negotiations
- Work for restoration of community understanding and support of school needs following the settlement of any work stoppage and/or strikes.

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