

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER IN CHILDREN

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 7, 1998

Reviewed and deemed relevant November 2017

- WHEREAS,** The fifth Object of the National PTA states, “To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education;” and
- WHEREAS,** Attention Deficit Disorder, also called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), is recognized as one of the leading problems of school-age children today; and
- WHEREAS,** Current medical research suggests that ADD/ADHD is a dysfunction of the central nervous system and may be present from birth; and
- WHEREAS,** When unidentified and untreated, ADD/ADHD children are at much greater risk for academic under-achievement, school failure and dropout, low self-esteem and family and social problems; and
- WHEREAS,** The National Association of School Psychologists believes that effective intervention should be tailored to the unique learning strengths and needs of every student and that such interventions for students with ADD/ADHD may include instructional and behavior modification, education of school staff and families, and medication when indicated for reinforcement of such interventions; and
- WHEREAS,** The National PTA in 1993 adopted the resolution “Attention Deficit Disorder in Children” calling for actions to increase awareness, appropriate interventions and funding for further research; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA encourage its units, councils and districts, in collaboration with a broad spectrum of health care professionals, to promote awareness among parents, school personnel and communities about ADD/ADHD, and stress the importance of early diagnosis and management; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA encourage its units, councils and districts to work with schools and school districts to ensure that appropriate resource materials and in-service training are available for parents, teachers and other school staff members; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA support the goals and intent of the 1993 National PTA resolution “Attention Deficit Disorder in Children.”

###

Continued on next page

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

ADD/ADHD is a leading cause of school failure and under-achievement. Nationally, it is estimated that approximately three to ten percent of the school-aged population has some form of ADD/ADHD. Although there is no known cause, scientific evidence suggests that in some cases it is genetically transmitted and results from a chemical imbalance that alters the way the brain affects behavior.

Just as the cause is uncertain, there also is divergent opinion within the medical community regarding the best methods of diagnosis and management. Effective interventions must be tailored to the unique strengths of every child and, when available, school psychologists should have a vital role in developing and monitoring effective interventions with students with ADD/ADHD.

ADD/ADHD is an increasingly recognized challenge in our schools that has an impact on all students, whether it be the students with ADD/ADHD who need accommodation or the remainder of the students in the classroom.