

ENCOURAGEMENT OF LAW-RELATED EDUCATION

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1985
Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2005

- WHEREAS,** There has been a continuing increase in delinquency and discipline problems among youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies have shown that law-related education taught by identifiable standards improves student law-abiding behavior and favorable attitudes toward school, community and law enforcement agencies; and
- WHEREAS,** The California State Framework for History-Social Science now in place allows for including law-related education, using law enforcement officials, lawyers and other community professionals; and
- WHEREAS,** Law-related educational materials K-12 are available statewide, but are not being extensively used; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts actively work to encourage law-related education as a part of classroom instruction; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts encourage school district curriculum advisory committees to provide sound law-related education in the classroom to improve the quality of citizenship education in accordance with the current education reform movement; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts collaborate with school officials, law enforcement agencies and other public and private groups in conferences, seminars, and other meetings devoted to encouraging law-related education.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

A national study which was a project of the Center for Civic Education* showed the following: “The effectiveness of law-related education has reaffirmed a previous finding that law-related education when taught according to identifiable standards can serve as a significant deterrent to delinquency behavior.” Taking part in the recent evaluation were 1,054 elementary, junior high, and high school students in 18 schools in California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan and North Carolina.

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Law-related education educates students about our laws and legal system. Its goal is to help students develop increased understanding necessary to function as better citizens in a free democratic society.

*A California non-profit corporation established by and affiliated with the State Bar of California and funded by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.