

NONSUSPENSION OF PROPOSITION 98

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1991

Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2014

- WHEREAS, General Principle #4 of the California State PTA Legislation Platform calls for “Budgets and financial support to provide needed public services for all children and youth with the continued constitutional guarantee of financial support for public schools as the first claim on all state revenues in the general fund;” and
- WHEREAS, General Principle #6 of the California State PTA Legislation Platform calls for “Strong and broadly based tax structures at state and local levels;” and
- WHEREAS, General Principle #7 of the California State PTA Legislation platform calls for “Establishment of and adherence to fiscal responsibility in government, with concern for fair taxation but keeping priorities for the needs of children and youth foremost;” and
- WHEREAS, California State PTA actively participated in the development and passage of Propositions 98 and 111; and
- WHEREAS, Proposition 98 is a technical mechanism that attempts to provide a stable funding base for K-14 education in California that does not require more than its fair share of state funding; and
- WHEREAS, Through the amendments passed in Proposition 111, there is already a provision to decrease temporarily the Proposition 98 guaranteed funding for education in times of economic recession; and
- WHEREAS, Some other state funded programs continue to grow more rapidly than state revenues; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts urge the Governor and the Legislature to not suspend Proposition 98; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That California State PTA, its units, councils and districts urge the Governor and the Legislature to acknowledge Proposition 98 as a guaranteed floor for education funding, not as a ceiling; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That California State PTA, its units, councils and districts urge the Governor and the Legislature to raise the necessary revenues to provide needed public services, including full funding for public education.

###

Continued on next page

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The California State PTA is committed to the principle of public education having a constitutional guarantee of first call on revenue in the state general fund. For years, the State PTA has been a leader in the effort to secure adequate and equitable financing for our public schools. PTA was one of the originators of Proposition 98, designed to give education its “fair share” of state revenues.

Because of the current fiscal crisis in California, there is a strong movement in the Legislature and Governor’s Office to suspend Proposition 98. Unfortunately, this has become highly politicized. Although PTA is neutral in such partisan controversies, PTA **cannot remain neutral** regarding Proposition 98. Even with nonsuspension of Proposition 98, schools in California face significant budget cuts. If Proposition 98 is suspended, the cuts in school programs and services will be catastrophic.

The California State PTA Board of Managers is convinced that PTAs throughout California must unite in a concerted effort to prevent suspension of Proposition 98 and avert the disaster threatening our children’s education.