

## **PRIMARY PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE\***

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 9, 1979

*Reviewed and deemed relevant November 2017*

- WHEREAS,** Substance abuse continues to occur among children and youth in our society; and
- WHEREAS,** Teaching about substance abuse by presenting factual information about harmful substances, their physical ill effects, and legal implications has not been successful in preventing substance abuse; and
- WHEREAS,** Primary prevention is a constructive process designed to promote personal and social growth of the individual toward full human potential and consists of the earliest and most basic measures; and
- WHEREAS,** Primary prevention, which promotes positive growth and development of self-esteem when used in conjunction with factual information, is an effective approach to the substance abuse problem; and
- WHEREAS,** The California State PTA has long supported efforts in education to reduce the damage to physical and mental health; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA actively support primary prevention of substance abuse through systematic ongoing education for children K-12; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA support legislation to establish, promote and fund primary prevention education for children and adolescents in the school and community; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to place special emphasis on education for parents which will help them acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for primary prevention of substance abuse by their children; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA forward this resolution to the National PTA convention.

\* Substance abuse is defined as the deliberate ingesting, inhaling or injection of any natural or chemical substance into the human body in an amount determined to be, or suspected to be, physically or mentally harmful to an individual.

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**BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

The California State PTA has previous actions in support of prevention of substance abuse.

Primary prevention is a constructive process designed to promote personal and social growth through the earliest and most basic measures. The resolution directs the California State PTA to support primary prevention of substance abuse and to support legislation and parent education for primary prevention of substance abuse.