

**SCHOOL DESEGREGATION
THROUGH HOUSING INTEGRATION INCENTIVES**

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 5, 1982

Reviewed by Board of Managers March 2012

- WHEREAS, Racial segregation in housing has contributed to segregation in public schools in California; and
- WHEREAS, Action to discriminate or segregate on the basis of race in either housing or education is in violation of California law; and
- WHEREAS, Officials in both education and housing have legal responsibilities to take positive actions to desegregate; and
- WHEREAS, Discrimination and segregation in either public schools or in housing make desegregation efforts more difficult and costly; and
- WHEREAS, Desegregation of neighborhood housing could contribute constructively to school desegregation; and
- WHEREAS, School desegregation programs will continue to involve substantial costs permanently unless desegregation of neighborhood housing is achieved; and
- WHEREAS, Such desegregation could make possible naturally integrated neighborhood schools and enhancement of intergroup education; and
- WHEREAS, Both the National and State PTAs are on record favoring equal opportunity in both housing and education; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation to provide incentives for desegregation of neighborhood housing; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to serve as unifying forces in achieving desegregation of both housing and schools; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to cooperate with government, community and school toward this goal of school and housing desegregation through human relations education.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The recommended incentives could benefit Californians of every racial and ethnic origin, not just non-Anglo families whose children are denied equal education because of school segregation.

Existing interracial neighborhoods could be stabilized and gain new stature as desirable places in which to live. Legislation, such as that proposed, would counteract effects of past real estate practices such as racial steering and community redlining. Such legislation would tend to stimulate new activity in the housing market.

Costs would be minimal and benefits substantial if results enabled families with school-age children both to live closer to their children's school and to save costs to the school district of providing an integrated educational experience for them.

Several alternatives are available to legislators for providing incentives proposed. Among those which have already been enacted into law for purposes considered desirable are the following:

1. An increase in the Homeowner's Tax Exemption.
2. A Renter's Tax Exemption increase.
3. A tax moratorium for a given period of time.
4. A mortgage interest rate subsidy.

A fifth alternative may be to explore provision of incentives for families now protected from tax increases under Proposition 13. These families would face substantial property tax increases if they bought another home and had to pay taxes at the current market rate rather than the market rate of 1975. Other means of removing inequities in taxes are currently being sought, such as the Split Roll Property Tax Initiative.

Incentives which provide the benefit of reducing costs for school desegregation, such as immunity from Proposition 13 penalties for moving, are worthy of serious study by legislators.