

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 7, 1976

Reviewed by Board of Managers March 2009

- WHEREAS,** The public schools must be adequately supported and financed to enable our young people to receive the education they require to achieve their potential as productive and contributing citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** Effective public school education requires positive community support and active participation in development of school programs; and
- WHEREAS,** PTA with its long history of support for public education and school finance reform is the organization best qualified to create a mutually sympathetic and informed climate for action; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA establish, as a high priority, a statewide educational program directed to its members and the general public regarding:
1. their responsibility for adequately financing the public schools of California;
 2. the urgent need for school finance reform; and
 3. the need for increased participation in developing the support for effective school programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA direct its units, councils and districts to seek the aid of other community groups in this school support educational program.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

A School Support program initiated in each community would address itself not only to the statewide issues, but to the specific concerns of that community. The term School Support has a dual focus: school funding and school programming. This program is educational in design, and has as its goals the informing both of our own PTA membership and the total community of the inadequacies and inequities of the current methods of funding public schools and the soliciting of broad community participation in supporting and developing educational goals appropriate to that community's needs and resources.

The California State PTA has developed a Primer on School Finance which explains the complexities of our current methods of financing public school programs. This publication gives a statewide picture and also touches on special community needs. Some PTA districts have developed materials for implementing a School Support program within their own school district and make these materials available to their units and councils.

Continued on next page

The School Support programs are a reflection of the belief that, without a broadly based understanding of the current fiscal crises in education coupled with a total community commitment to achieve educational excellence, our schools will be the scapegoat in the present fiscal squeeze facing all public services.