

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER FOR ALL STUDENTS*(Adopted by Convention Delegates April 2001)**Reviewed by Board of Managers March 2012*

- WHEREAS, PTA believes that every child should graduate from high school and beyond with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the ever-changing world and to be prepared for life-long learning; and
- WHEREAS, PTA believes all students must have equal access to an education that meets the needs of tomorrow's high skill, high technology workplace; and
- WHEREAS, An overwhelming percentage of parents surveyed by the Governor's School-to-Career Advisory Council endorse and support the School-to-Career concept; and
- WHEREAS, A comprehensive School-to-Career model integrates academic and technical skills and enhances existing educational programs, and prepares students for lifelong learning, advanced education, and a successful transition into the workplace; and
- WHEREAS, Research indicates that students involved in School-to-Career, including those who are at-risk or in special education, may demonstrate an increase in school attendance and academic performance, and
- WHEREAS, The innovative learning strategies of School-to-Career curricula that encompass career awareness components, work-based learning, internships, service learning, workability, and career academies have led to improved academic performance and increased graduation rates among students who are most likely to drop out of school; and
- WHEREAS, School districts involved in School-to-Career learning have students who are more likely to meet University of California admission requirements, take Advanced Placement courses, and complete algebra by the ninth grade; and
- WHEREAS, School-to-Career instruction engages business to work in effective partnerships with the educational community to provide success-based, relevant learning environments for all students; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts educate parents about the need to support School-to-Career curricula in their schools as an integral part of their children's education; and be it further

Continued on next page

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts support efforts to promote School-to-Career instruction within local schools/school districts, as well as support efforts to expand and strengthen the alliances and partnerships formed between schools/school districts and local business communities, and between schools/school districts and institutions of higher learning; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts advocate for continued and sufficient funding of School-to-Career education.

###

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

To be successful in school, students, as learners, must be engaged in meaningful and relevant curriculum. Schools must meet the needs of all students by offering challenging academics, and also preparing students for their future participation in an ever-changing global economy.

School-to-Career instruction provides educational opportunities that enhance the quality of learning experiences for all students. Experiences in the workplace help students develop competence, confidence, and connections that can help ensure successful careers and citizenship in later life. Further, School-to-Career partnerships are an excellent way to increase the employment rate of all students, including those with disabilities. Research shows that when students' basic academic skills and employability skills are improved, so are their chances of finding employment.

School-to-Career curricula serve as a link between the school and business community. Students who participate in the School-to-Career opportunities are more likely to attend classes regularly, maintain good grades, have well-above average test scores, graduate from high school, and meet college entrance requirements. Research indicates that

- 55.9% of School-to-Career students, as compared to 12.9% of all other students, are likely to meet UC admission requirements;
- 36.1% School-to-Career students, as compared to 7.7% non School-to-Career students, take Advanced Placement courses;
- 44.6% of School-to-Career students, as compared to 16.8% of traditional students, take algebra by the ninth grade.

Today, there is a vital need for School-to-Career development within public schools. The United States is one of only a few industrialized nations that does not have an organized, comprehensive system to help young people prepare for and enter the workforce. Over fifty percent of U.S. employers report that they are unable to find qualified applicants for entry-level positions. Furthermore, high skilled jobs are growing at three times the rate of other jobs. In addition, American business spends an estimated \$30 billion on training and re-training its workforce. Effective School-to-Career curricula within our public schools can help meet America's growing need for qualified, skilled employees.