

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 7, 1981

Reviewed by Board of Managers March 2012

- WHEREAS, Children should be able to get to and from school in safety; and
- WHEREAS, Many children live beyond reasonable walking distance to school and/or must walk through hazardous areas to get to school; and
- WHEREAS, Many communities do not have reasonable access to public transportation and many parents are unable to drive their children to school; and
- WHEREAS, Many school districts have provided transportation for pupils because of distance and/or hazards; and
- WHEREAS, Budget constraints have caused school districts to curtail or charge for school transportation; and
- WHEREAS, The curtailment and/or charges have resulted in students walking or riding bicycles long distances and/or through hazardous areas and hitchhiking to school; and
- WHEREAS, The uncertainty in availability of transportation has caused a decrease in school attendance and a decrease in ADA funding for school districts; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation which would
1. fund the cost of transporting pupils for both distance and hazards; and
 2. allow the charging of a reasonable fee for non-indigent pupils which would not exceed the local public transportation fee for student passes.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

At the present time the state allows school districts to provide transportation to and from school. There is no charge for the handicapped or mandatory busing. There is no law to provide or allow busing for safety reasons. A charge may be levied for transportation and there may be a reimbursement by the state, but there is a penalty if more than 10% of the children provided with transportation are transported for safety reasons when otherwise they would have to travel through hazardous areas. The penalty is an astounding \$630.54 per child.

Absenteeism in the schools has risen. This has impacted the ADA funds, and this loss to the school districts comes at a time when schools are feeling the restriction of funds and have little hope of receiving a large infusion.