

## VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 8, 1980

*Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2010*

- WHEREAS,** The problem of violence and vandalism in our society is a major concern of parents, students, community members and educators; and
- WHEREAS,** The number of incidents of violence involving students and school personnel, and of destruction of school property, continues to escalate throughout the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies have shown that many factors strongly influence the occurrence of violence and vandalism in the school and community, including: the disorientation of the family, low self-esteem, the growing acceptance by society of violence as portrayed in the mass media, and the tolerance of physical aggression as a means of solving problems; and
- WHEREAS,** Prevention programs utilizing a values education approach can be effective in helping students to develop the ability to identify, evaluate, and choose their personal values and to gain a greater appreciation of the effects of their choices on themselves and society; and
- WHEREAS,** The PTA works to safeguard the welfare of students and seeks to encourage an environment in the schools conducive to learning; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA place the prevention of violence and vandalism in and around our schools high on its list of priorities; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge units, councils and districts to work with school governing boards, school staff, students, parents and the community to develop preventive programs based on a values education approach; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge units, councils and districts to work with school governing boards, school staff, students, parents and the community to develop an alternative program whereby violators may pay for or restore damaged property; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA forward this resolution to the National PTA for consideration by the delegates at the June 1980 National convention.

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*Continued on next page*

**BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

Each year more than one million juveniles in the United States find themselves in serious trouble with the law. School-community related anti-social behavior, including vandalism and violence, has reached proportions among school-age youth that necessitates the involvement of the schools, students and the community in the study and development of preventive programs to counteract this national trend. PTAs, because of their unique relationship to the schools, would hereby direct their activities toward seeking answers to this serious problem.

The values education approach has been utilized in other communities with positive results. Authorities believe that this approach, which stresses assisting pupils to develop self-esteem and to gain a greater appreciation of the effects of their actions upon themselves and society, can be effective in preventing anti-social and destructive behavior.