

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

*(Adopted by Convention Delegates May 2004
Reviewed and deemed relevant January 2018)*

- WHEREAS,** The California State PTA has welcomed student participants on its Board of Managers for more than a quarter of a century and includes student representatives on its committees and commissions at all PTA levels; and
- WHEREAS,** Some city, county, and school governing and advisory boards and commissions include youth in local policy and budget decisions, thus engaging those youth in local and regional decision making and programs; and
- WHEREAS,** State and local budgetary and policy decisions have a significant impact on the type and quality of programs that serve youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Many cities, counties, and school districts are effectively using youth development strategies and should be supported to achieve the full benefits of these efforts; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts promote efforts to solicit input from youth about budgetary and policy proposals that impact those youth; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts promote efforts to determine youth involvement opportunities and link those opportunities to existing local government, school, and state programs that promote voluntary civic and community service; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts encourage individual members of legislative bodies at all levels of government to include local youth in their policy making efforts; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts encourage schools and community programs, and policy making bodies to take affirmative steps to ensure that meaningful opportunities exist for including youth in planning and implementation efforts.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

The California State PTA believes involving youth is a commitment of our organization to accomplish common goals and encourage future advocates, community leaders, and responsible adults.

Whether it is at the local or state level, budgetary and policy decisions have significant impact on programs that serve youth in our schools and communities. Since youth are directly affected by these programs, involving them in the policy process is critical.

The tremendous contributions that youth can make in working with adults will build stronger and healthier communities.