

MINIMUM INSTRUCTION TIME

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 12, 1983

Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2013

- WHEREAS,** The average school year in California school systems is 177 days and nationally it is 180 days; and
- WHEREAS,** Many areas of the country still require a full 300 minutes instructional time per diem in elementary and secondary schools; and
- WHEREAS,** Class time is lost due to parent-teacher conferences during elementary school years and release time for teacher inservice training; and
- WHEREAS,** The number of units required for high school graduation has decreased due to budgetary cutbacks; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation to insure yearly instructional time for elementary and secondary students equivalent to a minimum day of 300 minutes and 180 days per year; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA, its units, councils and districts encourage school districts and school boards to implement policy which will allow for parent conferences and teacher inservice training to be held outside of classroom time.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Time magazine, October 18, 1982 issue, states that California children over the course of their school career have about one and a half less years of school than children in the rest of the country. According to *Time* this statement was made by Michael Kirst, Ph.D., former president of the California State Board of Education. He is presently a professor of education and business at Stanford University. Dr. Kirst said that the statement was true and the material backing his statement could be found in the California Assessment Program book.

Parent-teacher conferences, instead of being held after school, at lunch time or before school are taking place during school time. Children are dismissed from school an hour early and conferences are set up between teachers and parent. An hour a day for two weeks is the equivalent of two whole days of school each semester.

Time is lost for inservice training when schools are closed early for teacher training and conferences from the school district. One or two days a semester takes away another two weeks of instructional time during the course of the child's education.

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Presently, the average school year in California school systems is 177 days and nationally it is 180 days, which is equivalent to one day less than eight weeks lost of instructional time. The school day has been shortened and class time is lost for a variety of reasons.

This resolution would urge establishment of a longer school day and school year, as well as limiting disruptions to the instructional day.