

## POST PROPOSITION 13 FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 11, 1979

*Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2010*

- WHEREAS, The passage of Proposition 13 on the June 6, 1978, ballot limited the property tax, formerly the major source of funding for the public schools, to a level which resulted in an initial loss of more than \$3.5 billion to the schools, and increased losses anticipated in subsequent years; and
- WHEREAS, Legislation enacted to provide a one-year partial replacement of the funds lost by school districts, cities, counties and special districts caused an average cutback for school districts of 10% from the amount which the districts would otherwise have received according to legislation enacted prior to Proposition 13; and
- WHEREAS, As a condition of providing partial replacement of lost funding, the Legislature has exercised unprecedented control over the allocation of resources within school districts; and
- WHEREAS, Without advance knowledge of the level of funding to be provided, school districts cannot exercise fiscal and programmatic responsibility in the delivery of educational services and the maintenance of the public's investment in school facilities; and
- WHEREAS, In order to assure equal educational opportunity for all students, extra funds must be available to provide for the diverse needs of students and the differential costs of such noneducational but essential expenditures as utilities, fuel, transportation, insurance and maintenance; and
- WHEREAS, The California State PTA Legislative Platform indicates its commitment to financing for public education which will be sufficient to provide optimum educational opportunities for all students, and to maximum local control when it serves the best interests of children and youth; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge the Legislature and the Governor to enact an ongoing method of financing public schools such that the sources will be dependable, long-range, and adequate to provide optimum educational opportunity for all elementary and secondary students, with allowance for inflation and a mechanism for funding state, federal and court mandates; be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the process for allocating funds to school districts take into account the differential costs of the special needs of both students and districts; and be it further

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**RESOLVED,** That local boards of education be given maximum decision-making authority in the deployment of funds and personnel to fulfill the educational needs of the students they serve.

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### **BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

When the voters approved Proposition 13, the property tax rate was limited to 1% of full cash value of the property as of the 1975 lien date, with a limit of a 2% increase per year for inflation, and reassessment only upon change of ownership or new construction. Of the \$7 billion lost to local government by this restriction of the local property tax, more than \$3.5 billion was taken from the public schools. The level of funding provided by a one-year “bailout” bill, later amended, represented an average loss to school districts of 10% from the amount they would have received under law prior to Proposition 13.

From having been one of the top states in terms of public school support only a few years earlier, California has dropped to 22nd in the level of expenditures for elementary and secondary education. With the state currently providing over 70% of the total funding for public schools, drastic loss of local control has occurred. School districts are criticized for not doing more effective long-range planning, yet they are kept in suspense annually regarding the funding level they can expect from the Legislature.

This resolution asks for the recognition of education as a priority function of this state with the commitment of adequate funds from stable sources to a long-range planning program designed to provide quality and equality of educational opportunity in California.