

SUMMER SCHOOL

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 9, 1980

Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2010

- WHEREAS, The majority of school districts currently offer an educational program on a nine-month basis; however, certain fixed costs are year round; and
- WHEREAS, Many students attend schools on a shortened day, due to financial cut-backs in regular program offerings, and their school day is used to meet minimum basic educational requirements; and
- WHEREAS, Many students need and would benefit from classes offered during summer school; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation to offer, and separately fund, summer school for remediation, enrichment and reinforcement of the course of study for elementary and secondary students.

###

BACKGROUND SUMMARY

One of the PTA principles, as stated in the *National PTA Handbook, 1979-81*, is: “We believe that all children and youth should have the opportunity, through free public education, to develop their capacities to the maximum.”

Events during the past two years have caused school districts to curtail the delivery of education to our children. One of the most apparent of these curtailments has been in the area of summer school programming.

In 1977, the last year when summer school was offered in the Los Angeles Unified Schools, 138,000 elementary students and more than 137,000 secondary students were enrolled in this program. These figures reflect that 45% of the total student enrollment participated in broadly designed summer school curricula. Recent legislation resulted in state funding of .6 ADA to allow school districts to offer summer school to graduating seniors (who had to have the credits to graduate) and to substantially handicapped children. Statewide figures also reflect a similar number of students participating during 1977, and the same offerings since.

State law has recently mandated the testing of children in various competency skills. In practice, this has resulted in many third and sixth grade students who did not pass these tests being held back at grade level since there was no summer remediation programs available to them. In addition, shortened days, caused by overcrowding and double sessions, have resulted in students not receiving a full educational program. At the elementary level, these children simply never can catch up. At the secondary level, it has caused overcrowding in required courses as school personnel do not wish to keep a student from graduating on time.

Continued on next page

Those students who are most affected by the lack of summer school are the very ones who frequently need it the most. These are children in the over-crowded urban schools, mostly minority and oft-times less affluent. These children cannot afford the fees which are charged currently in many communities for private summer school programs.

PTA is deeply committed to an adequate public educational program. The current effect of the elimination of summer school is to cause serious hardships for our children and youth.