GENDER EQUITY IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The Tennessee PTA, in agreement with the National PTA, believes that every child must be provided with sound general education which will prepare him/her to pursue a career or further academic training and to become a responsible citizen in a free society in the global community; and

WHEREAS, Educational opportunities for students in the public schools are dependent on the quality of instructional programs and personnel; and

WHEREAS, Teacher preparation and staff development programs designed to initiate and strengthen professional excellence in instruction, teaching techniques, assessments and the transmission of academic knowledge free of gender bias should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, Passage of Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, prohibiting discrimination in educational institutions receiving federal funds, has not prevented girls from systematic discouragement from courses of study essential to their future employability and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, The current school reform movement must concentrate on what has to change in order for each student—every girl and every boy—to do as well as she or he can; and

WHEREAS, By recognizing what happens to girls in the classroom, we are able to gain valuable insights to improve education for both girls and boys to help prepare them for the next century; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA and its local units support:

A) School improvement efforts that include a focus on the ongoing professional development of teachers, parents, counselors, and administrators including issues of gender fairness;

B) State certification standards for teachers, counselors, and administrators that require course-work on gender issues including bias in classroom interaction patterns;

C) The development of gender fair multi-cultural curricula and assessments; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA continue to emphasize the need to develop gender fair curricula to meet the developmental needs of girls as well as boys and assist parents to encourage all children in their pursuit of scientific, technological and other careers.

Adopted by the 1993 Convention Delegates
Referred to the Education Committee April 17, 1998
Reaffirmed by the Board of Managers – April, 2003