PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Public education is the cornerstone of our society, and has played a vital role in educating citizens for democracy, in calculating our shared values, and helping our children understand and appreciate our diversity; and

WHEREAS, That the Tennessee PTA has long held its policy that public funds be utilized for publicly controlled school systems; and

WHEREAS, Public schools are governed by public board and are required to educate every child, to follow the legislative mandates and state board rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, A strong, effective, responsive public school system, adequately financed, is one that can see that:

- all children will begin school ready to learn,
- primary and middle grade students will achieve world-class standards and enter high school ready for rigorous study,
- high school students will achieve world-class standards and leave school prepared for postsecondary education, work and citizenship,
- technology will be used to improve student learning and analyzing data,
- teachers will be qualified individuals who complete strong professional preparation programs and continue to grow professionally,
- assessment will be used to improve student learning and demonstrate accountability,
- school leaders will be well prepared, capable and responsible for improving performance of schools and school systems,
- students and school personnel will have teaching and learning environments that are safe, disciplined and healthy; and

WHEREAS, There are continuous proposals of education tax subsidies and vouchers that would divert public monies to non-public schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA, its regions, councils, and units continue to oppose education tax subsidies and vouchers which would provide financial assistance for non-public schools and reduce public revenue without improving public education; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA, its regions, councils, and units work to defeat any attempt to enact legislation that supports education tax subsidies, vouchers, and other such funding sources that do not provide the means for bringing about improvements in our public schools.

Adopted by the 2005 Convention Delegates