READING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Tennessee PTA recognizes that reading is our first and most basic educational process; and

WHEREAS, a child who does not read, or reads poorly, must endure nine (9) to twelve (12) years in an educational system that uses reading as its primary delivery system; and

WHEREAS, children who fall behind in first grade have a one in eight chance of ever catching up to grade level without extraordinary effort; and

WHEREAS, forty percent (40%) of all children are now reading below the basic level on national assessments; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, forty percent (40%) of America’s children do not read well, and about twenty-five (25%) read so poorly that they enter fourth grade reading at a first- and second-grade level; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Tennessee PTA supports the adoption of a ninety percent (90%) reading goal by the school systems in Tennessee; that goal being that ninety percent (90%) of our students will read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Tennessee PTA supports a statewide reading initiative to eliminate illiteracy in our society.

Adopted by the 2003 Convention Delegates