Resolutions for Consideration
at the 2023 Convention & Annual Meeting

The following four resolutions will be brought before the Voting Delegates for consideration to be adopted as resolutions for the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association.

Resolution One:

Tennessee School Support Organization Financial Accountability Act Resolution

WHEREAS, PTA units in Tennessee operate independently as a 501(c)3 under the umbrella charter of the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., aka Tennessee PTA; and
WHEREAS, local and council PTA units are democratic bodies that approve budgets by the general membership of each local and council units; and
WHEREAS, local and council PTA units make their democratic decisions on programs, fundraisers, community service, nominations, and election of officers; and
WHEREAS, local and council PTA units are required by the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., aka Tennessee PTA, to submit annual audit reports, confirmation of 990 tax reports, membership dues, and updated bylaws to the Tennessee PTA to remain in good standing; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association affirms the rights and responsibilities found in Tennessee Code 48-58-101 through 48-66-202, the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, to be the controlling legislation for the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., aka Tennessee PTA, and its local constituents represented by local and council units; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association calls upon the members of the Tennessee General Assembly to provide relief to all PTA units by deleting the phrase “parent teacher association” from Tennessee Code 49-2-603, section 4(a).

Resolution Two:

Tennessee PTA Resolution of Support of Educators

WHEREAS The Tennessee PTA believes in the power of education and educators are the key to the success of every child.
WHEREAS we stand with the teachers in the state of Tennessee as not only an integral part of our organization but realizing that teachers are key to reaching each child’s potential.
WHEREAS Tennessee PTA recognizes that teachers are highly and continuously trained to be effective and powerful educators who reaches each child where they are in order to meet their needs.
WHEREAS teachers throughout the pandemic took on additional work to combat the serious constraints of the pandemic and work through learning in a way that had never been imagined before.
WHEREAS Tennessee PTA believes that supporting our teachers and continuously building the family/school partnerships is not only necessary but imperative for all children to thrive; be it therefore

RESOLVED that The Tennessee Parent Teacher Association stands proud with teachers and is committed to continuing to support our teachers and our students together so that we can help ensure a bright future for all.

Resolution Three:

RADON TESTING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Radon is a naturally-occurring, colorless, radioactive gas formed by radioactive decay of radioactive elements, such as uranium found in soils and rocks all across the U.S., which can move through the soil into the air and ground water; and
WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year; and
WHEREAS, Radon gas trapped indoors constitutes a substantial health risk as a carcinogen and has been identified as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States; and
WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ranks radon among the most serious current environment hazards therefore, recommends that schools nationwide be tested for radon; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Tennessee Parent Teacher Association, through its committees, work to inform parents about the concerns of radon exposure and make them aware of low-cost test kits available for their homes; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Parent Teacher Association recognizes radon exposure as a health risk to children and adults and encourages councils and local units to educate their PTA members and communities about the dangers of radon and methods for radon testing and detection; and be it further

RESOLVED, that school officials and citizens of Tennessee be encouraged to test for radon in their schools and homes to reduce unhealthy radon levels.

Resolution Four:

Child Nutrition Resolution

WHEREAS, Tennessee PTA recognizes that proper nutrition is imperative to the health, development and academic achievement of children. On average, a child will consume about one-third to one-half of their daily calories during the school day. It’s therefore critical that federal school meals programs be adequately funded, and modernized to improve access to high-quality, nutritious school meals for all children.
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WHEREAS, food insecurity is linked to lower reading and math scores, falling behind peers academically and socially, and may lead to increased risk of behavioral issues, such as anxiety, hyperactivity, and aggression. Additionally, eating breakfast at school is associated with better attendance rates, fewer missed school days, and better test scores.

WHEREAS, the USDA National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Food Care Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Afterschool Meal & Snack Service, provide important nutritional and financial support to students and families. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, each school day, almost 30 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program and almost 15 million participated in the School Breakfast Program. WHEREAS, a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an increase in food insecurity, persistent workforce shortages, and supply chain issues. Child nutrition waivers issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) during the 2020-2022 school years helped reduce child hunger by increasing school meal participation and played a critical role in supporting school nutrition operations.

WHEREAS, Research shows that students who participate in the school meal programs consume more whole grains, milk, fruits, and vegetables during meal times and have better overall diet quality, than nonparticipants. However, over the past few decades food served in school meals has become increasingly more processed (heat-and-serve) with less locally prepared whole foods. Concurrently, obesity rates and diet-related conditions such as type 2 diabetes have increased in both children and teenagers.

WHEREAS, proper nutrition, adequate physical activity, and supporting families in finding healthy meal options is the cornerstone of a child’s health, well-being and development.

WHEREAS The USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enables high poverty schools and school divisions to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students in a qualifying school. Additionally, the CEP program eliminates school meal debt, reduces paperwork, and streamlines school meal operations by eliminating the need to collect and process school meal applications and school meal payment; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that Tennessee Parent Teacher Association, supports and advocates for legislation and wellness policies which:

- Include measurable goals and best practices regarding child nutrition with definitions for locally grown, scratch, and speed scratch cooking.
- Ensure sufficient time for students to receive a meal, at least 20 minutes to consume a meal, and a recess or break opportunity.
- Increase procurement and processing of locally grown foods, and farm to school programs.
• Expand use of whole, fresh and/or minimally processed ingredients and scratch-cooked meals through funding programs that modernize school kitchen equipment and provide training for school nutrition staff.
• Provide flexibility to prepare and serve meals that recognize diverse student dietary needs and cultural or regional cuisine preferences.
• Provide flexibility such as allowing multi-day grab-and-go meal options during school breaks including over the summer months.
• Support the inclusion of students, parents and school-based staff in the development, implementation, and evaluation of school nutrition.
• Support the inclusion of students, parents and school-based staff in the development, implementation, and evaluation of school wellness and school meal programs

RESOLVED, Tennessee Parent Teacher Association strongly opposes the meal debt policies that shame or humiliate students—or prevent children from receiving a full meal equivalent to their peers.

RESOLVED, Tennessee Parent Teacher Association supports legislation that requires eligible schools to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. National PTA also supports federal and state funding programs that implement Universal Free School Meals for all students, regardless of income levels.