

CHARTER SCHOOLS

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WHEREAS, The Tennessee PTA has a responsibility to actively direct its advocacy efforts to support, improve, and preserve a quality public education system for all children; and

WHEREAS, Charter schools could provide a vehicle for innovation within the public school structure; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous definitions of charter schools, subject to various interpretations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA urge the legislature to ensure that any legislative proposals regarding publicly funded charter schools include the following:

1. Charter schools must not be operated for profit and should not be affiliated with private, religious or home schools.
2. Charter schools must be open to all students, regardless of race, sex, religion, physical, mental, emotional or learning exceptionalities.
3. Charter schools must provide transportation as per the requirements in Tennessee statutes for all students.
4. Charter schools must be subject to all state and federal health, safety, and anti-discrimination laws. They must be subject to Tennessee statutes regarding public information and meetings.
5. The charter schools should fall under the authority of local Boards of Education and be accountable to the Tennessee State Board of Education.
6. The charter school plan should provide for the maximum involvement of parents/guardians and provide clear information to all parents and guardians.
7. Charter schools should not decrease/deplete funding from public schools.
8. Charter schools should be subject to the same state statutes requiring that all teachers in public schools be licensed under the laws and regulations of the State of Tennessee.
9. Charter schools should continue the educational philosophies of school improvements outlined in the Education Improvement Act and the Basic Education Funding Formula; and be it further

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4 RESOLVED, That the Tennessee PTA encourage its regions, councils, and local
5 units to work to increase community awareness on charter schools;
6 and be it further
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8 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Tennessee,
9 the Tennessee General Assembly, the State Board of Education and
10 the State Commissioner of Education.
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20 Adopted by the 1997 Convention Delegates
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22 Reaffirmed by the Board of Managers – April, 2002