

Virginia
PTA
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TO: VIRGINIA PTA MEMBERS

FROM: 2009 VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Jean Farrar, Chair, Michelle Prescott, Vice Chair
Beckey Gallamore, Committee Secretary, Kathy Burcher,
Legislation Chair, Stella Edwards, Immediate Past Education Chair

RE: RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

On November 13, 14, and 15, 2009, the following Resolutions were adopted with a majority vote as amended. We were pleased with the debate among the delegates and are proud to present the final adopted document. Please make sure to pass this information on to your entire membership.

Those resolutions with legislative intent will become a part of our 2010 Legislation Program. We are in the process of working with some Virginia legislators to bring those that have legislative intent to the General Assembly this upcoming session. The rest of the Resolutions will become a part of "Our Positions".

Again as a reminder if you would like to see the background documentation on these Resolutions, the original full resolutions, before amendments, (which include justification/sources and web links) are available online under the Resolutions Library. Go to the vapta.org home page, on the left hand side, select committees, then select Resolutions, then click on Resolutions Library.

Your Resolutions committee worked diligently to bring these issues to your attention. This is one of the many things we can do that make a difference in the lives of our children. We hope that in the future you and/or your local unit will consider submission for next year's program.

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

- WHEREAS*, Teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling and abusive behavior of one person over another within a romantic relationship including verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse; and
- WHEREAS*, Teen Dating Violence Campaign, reports a staggering fact that 1 in 3 teens will be in an abusive relationship and that most will stay in the relationship after the first act of violence; and
- WHEREAS*, The National Center for Victims of Crimes reports that one of five teens in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner; and
- WHEREAS*, There are negative long term behavioral and psychological health impacts to those experiencing adolescent dating violence according to a study published in the Journal of Pediatrics; and
- WHEREAS*, Less than 25% of teens say they have discussed dating violence with their parents although most teen dating abuse takes place in the home of one of the partners; and
- WHEREAS*, Because girls engage in high levels of physical aggression and psychological abuse and most abusive relationships are characterized by mutual aggression, prevention efforts must be directed toward both males and females, and interventions for victims should include services and programming for boys and girls; and
- WHEREAS*, In a 2009 study by *Break the Cycle*, Virginia scored an "F" because it severely impedes teen victim's access to domestic violence protective orders for victims of dating; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA and its constituent organizations educate our members about the issue of dating violence and supports and encourages dating violence education programs in middle and high school and urges parents to discuss this issue with their children; and further be it
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA seek and support legislation that would allow for teen victims' access to domestic violence protective orders.

Convention Action Record

Delegate Action: Adopted Failed Referred

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

- WHEREAS*, Every 2 hours and 11 minutes a person under the age of 25 commits suicide; and
- WHEREAS*, Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surpassed only by accidents and homicide; and
- WHEREAS*, Youth suicide is a serious problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities, and
- WHEREAS*, Factors that increase the risk of suicide among teens include: a psychological disorder, especially depression, bipolar disorder, and alcohol and drug use (in fact, approximately 95% of people who die by suicide have a psychological disorder at the time of death); and
- WHEREAS*, The risk of suicide increases dramatically when kids and teens have access to firearms at home, and nearly 60% of all suicides in the United States are committed with a gun; and
- WHEREAS*, Half of all children who have made one suicide attempt will make another, sometimes as many as two a year, until they succeed. The majority of suicide attempts are expressions of extreme distress and not just harmless bids for attention; and
- WHEREAS*, Part of preventing teen suicide includes recognizing the issues that can trigger feelings of teen depression leading to suicidal thoughts and feelings. Teen suicide prevention requires diligence on the part of guardians, as well as a willingness to seek professional help when it is needed; therefore be it
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA make available to their constituent organizations current resource materials on youth suicide prevention; and be it further
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA and its constituent organizations, support youth suicide prevention programs for survivors of suicide attempts and families who have lost someone to suicide; and be it further
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA and their constituent organizations urge school divisions in Virginia to develop and implement school based suicide prevention programs and to provide in-service training for school personnel in both individual and school-wide strategies for suicide prevention.

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

Convention Action Record

Delegate Action:

Adopted

Failed

Referred

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL NURSES

- WHEREAS*, In November 1993 the Virginia PTA passed a resolution to “encourage school divisions to employ or contract with the Health Department for registered nurses on a four year phase in basis”; and
- WHEREAS*, In the sixteen years since that resolution was passed, the percentage of students needing daily professional school nurse services, such as those with asthma, severe food allergies, diabetes and ADHD, has risen dramatically; and
- WHEREAS*, Since 1993 a greater number of students with complex health care needs such as catheterizations, tube feedings and tracheotomy suctioning have been mainstreamed into the public school setting; and
- WHEREAS*, School nursing is defined as, “a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement of students” (NASN 2006); and
- WHEREAS*, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Healthy People 2010 (a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services directive) recommend a ratio of one school nurse for every 750 students; and
- WHEREAS*, The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) further recommends a 1-to-225 ratio for schools that require daily professional school nursing services and 1-to-125 in schools with complex health care needs; and
- WHEREAS*, The Commonwealth of Virginia does not specifically mandate any school nursing services in their Standards of Quality for Virginia public schools which results in a wide range of nurse-to-student ratios as high as 1:3800; and
- WHEREAS*, In 2009 there are several divisions of Virginia which still do not provide a full-time registered and/or licensed practical nurse in their public schools, instead relying on Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP); and
- WHEREAS*, When UAP give medication and provide services they are three times more likely to make an error than a registered nurse; and
- WHEREAS* When school nurses are responsible for covering multiple campuses, the danger exists that their expertise and intervention may be urgently required in those locations simultaneously; and
- WHEREAS*, In 2009 the H1N1 flu virus has reached pandemic status with particular concern for school aged children and pregnant women; and

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

- WHEREAS*, Most public health experts acknowledge that school nurses will be among the first health care providers to assess, evaluate, and refer students and school personnel with flu-like symptoms for medical care as well as provide instruction for disease prevention; and
- WHEREAS*, When registered nurses are employed in public schools there is ample evidence to indicate that more students are assessed, evaluated, and returned to class when appropriate, or sent home when determined to be clinically ill, which ultimately raises overall test scores and increases student performance; and
- WHEREAS*, During the 2010 Legislative Session, policymakers for the Commonwealth will consider placing a cap on educational support services, which includes school nursing; and
- WHEREAS*, The Asthma and Allergy network Mothers of Asthmatics' (AANMA) has been fighting to secure a federal mandate for a nurse in every school building since 2001; and
- WHEREAS*, The Federal Student-to-School Nurse Ratio Improvement Act of 2009 (H.R. 2730) has bi-partisan support, 16 cosponsors as of 7/28/09, and the support of at least 50 national and state organizations; therefore be it
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA encourages and supports legislation that would provide a fully-funded full-time registered nurse in every school during school hours, in order to provide for and maintain the optimum health and safety of our children; and be it further
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA recommends that the Commonwealth of Virginia specify school nursing services in the Standards of Quality at the rate of at least one professional nurse for every 750 students with the option of additional health care support based on caseload, severity, and number of students with special health care needs; and be it further
- RESOLVED*, That the Virginia PTA supports the Federal Student-to-School-Nurse-Ratio Improvement Act of 2009.

Convention Action Record

Delegate Action:

Adopted

Failed

Referred

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Virginia is home to a high percentage of military families; and

WHEREAS, Military families display an extraordinary degree of patriotism because of their service and sacrifice for our country; and

WHEREAS, Military families experience unique stressors such as extended separations, risk for physical injury or death, and increased incidence of depression, substance abuse and divorce; and

WHEREAS, National PTA President, Chuck Saylor, specifically identified the need for outreach and support of our military families during his installation remarks at the June 2009 National PTA Convention; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Virginia PTA, under the direction of the Virginia PTA President and Parental Involvement Chair, will examine strategies and initiate programs for outreach and support of military families in the Commonwealth.

Convention Action Record

Delegate Action:

Adopted

Failed

Referred

VIRGINIA PTA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT 2009 CONVENTION

21ST CENTURY SKILLS LEARNING

- Whereas, 21st century skills include critical thinking, innovative and collaborative problem solving, creativity, communication, and information management, and
- Whereas, Creating a 21st century education system that prepares students, workers, and citizens to succeed in the new, global economy is central to our country's economic future; and
- Whereas, The best learning occurs when the basic skills (reading, writing, math and science) are taught in combination with complex thinking skills; and
- Whereas, Research overwhelmingly suggests that the skills needed to be prepared for the jobs of the 21st century are different from what were needed 20 years ago; and
- Whereas, In a nationwide poll conducted in September of 2007, 66% of voters say that students need more than just the basics of reading, writing, math and science to be competitive in today's world; and
- Whereas, Companies report that they have changed how they are organized and do business giving workers more responsibility and allowing them to contribute more to productivity and innovation; and
- Whereas The US Bureau of Labor Statistics report changes in the world economy that require more educated workers with the ability to solve complex problems, communicate effectively, manage information, work in teams, and produce new knowledge; and
- Whereas, In order to prepare students to be competitive, Virginia needs an agenda that infuses 21st century skills into core academic subjects; now therefore be it
- Resolved, That Virginia PTA supports Virginia's efforts to incorporate 21st century skills into the K-12 curriculum; and be it further
- Resolved, That Virginia PTA supports professional development programs to prepare teachers and administrators to fully implement the 21st Century curriculum.

Convention Action Record			
Delegate Action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred