



# ADVOCACY: THE VOICE OF MEMBERSHIP

**A Resolution** is an original main motion which, because of its importance, length, or complexity, is submitted in writing. Resolutions call for action by the LAPTA or its constituent bodies. Resolutions seek to address problems, situations or concerns which affect children and youth, and which require action for solution.

**A Legislative Position** is a statement outlining the opinion, will, or intent of the PTA to address statewide problems, situations, or concerns that affect children. A position statement usually requires initial action to seek resolution on the issue, but the position is sometimes maintained, even when action has been taken, to substantiate the continuing will of the PTA.

## Proposing New Resolutions or Legislative Positions

Local PTAs or LAPTA may submit resolutions or legislative positions. LAPTA considers all submissions, biannually, upon the recommendation of the Advocacy Committee. Submissions must be received at the LAPTA Office no later than November 15th in odd-numbered years.

## Criteria for Consideration

- Further the mission of the PTA.
- Align with National PTA and LAPTA policies and are noncommercial, nonpartisan, nonsectarian.
- Concern a matter of national or state scope, not merely local interest.
- Request action that is feasible for LAPTA to undertake.
- Adopted by the membership of the submitting PTA.
- State a position not previously adopted by the LAPTA.

## Submission Requirements

- A cover sheet shall be completed and signed by the submitting PTA, include the signatures of the PTA President and Secretary, and indicate the date on which the proposal was adopted by the membership of the submitting PTA.
- The resolution or legislative position language.
- Table of contents for supporting materials.
- A rationale statement (one page or less) summarizing the issue and the need for the requested action.
- Background materials, documenting each "whereas" clause in a resolution or each statement in a legislative position. This material should indicate that the subject was well-researched by the submitting PTA and should be sufficient to give a person with no previous knowledge of the subject enough information to make an intelligent decision. The material must be unbiased, well-balanced, and may include PTA-related information such as statements or policies, copies of document research, pertinent laws, surveys, or statistics, and copies of relevant articles from publications. Newspaper articles and editorials alone are not sufficient background material.

## Emergency Resolutions or Legislative Positions

PTAs wishing to propose an emergency item must submit the proposal to the LAPTA no later June 15 in even-numbered years. To be eligible for emergency consideration, the issue must have arisen after the published November 15 submission deadline. If approved by the LAPTA Board of Directors, a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegate body is necessary to consider the emergency item.