

## Resolutions and Positions of the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers Association

This summary has been developed as only a reference to all current resolutions and position/policy statements adopted by the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers since 1984. The information is paraphrased and is not the complete position of the Virginia Congress, and therefore, cannot be used to quote Virginia PTA positions.

This summary has been provided as a convenient overview of positions of the Virginia PTA, as an aid in the development of new resolutions, and to assist local units in responding to questions regarding positions of the Virginia PTA on various issues. Interpretation of the Virginia PTA position requires referral to the appropriate resolutions, position/policy statements, priority items, or legislative action items that should be maintained by each local unit or from the state office.

R - Convention Resolution    PS - Position/Policy Statement    PI - Priority Item    LAI - Legislative Action Item

### EDUCATION

**APPOINTMENTS** - Supports appointment of Superintendent for Public Instruction by BOE. (PS)

**ARTS IN HIGH SCHOOL** - Urges BOE to amend high school graduation requirements to include fine and practical arts. (R - 1994)

**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE** - Requests the VA Dept. Of Education (DOE) examine the feasibility of granting credit for ASL courses for specific university requirements. (R - 1995) Requests the development of ASL as a 3-unit language & fulfill requirement for ASD. (R - 1996)

**ASSESSMENT** - Supports a program of assessment with qualifications. (PS)

**BINDING ARBITRATION** - Opposes constitutional amendment for school personnel. (R - 1989)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** - Supports requirement for election of the Commonwealth (State) Board of Education. (LAI - 2001)

**CAREER EDUCATION** - Supports access for all students. (PS)

**CHARTER SCHOOLS** - Supports charter school plans which meet specified conditions. (R - 1994)

**CHILD CARE PROGRAMS** - Supports legislation to allow local option for establishment of child care programs for school-age children outside school hours. (PI - 1988)

**CHOICE** - Opposes: public funds for private school vouchers, failure to guarantee excellent education for those who can't or don't "choose", failure to guarantee equal access, inability of any public school to compete as a result of student/financial loss, and which leads to segregation. (PS)

**CLASS SIZE** - Supports reduction in maximum class size. (PS)

**COMMUNICATION** - Supports two-way communication between employees and local school board. (PS)

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS** - Supports. (PS)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** - Supports a requirement to include community service participation as a part of character education. (LAI - 2002)

**COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE** - Supports until 17 or graduation. (PI - 1990)

**CPR CERTIFICATION** - Requests BOE amend accrediting regulations to require annual CPR certification of 2 or more full time staff members. (R - 1994)

**CURRICULUM** - Supports the maintenance of a broad-based curriculum for all public school students with equitable state funding. (PS) Supports access to programs in vocational-technical education for all students. (PS)

**DISCIPLINE** - Supports discipline maintenance and responsible student conduct with provision for due process. (PS) Supports the use of suspension with provision for due process. (PS)

**DROP-OUT RATE** - Supports programs/efforts to reduce. (PS)

**DUTY-FREE LUNCHES** - Supports regulations to ensure for all teachers. (PI-1987)

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES** - Supports encouragement to develop to the fullest potential. (PS)

**EDUCATION INITIATIVES** – Supports expanding education initiatives to include pre-school, dual enrollment, advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and post high school courses. (PS-2006)

**ELEMENTARY PHYSICAL EDUCATION** - Requests promulgation of regulations for elementary P.E. (R - 1994)

**EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS** - Supports legislation giving a school board the authority to enter into discussion with representatives of an employee organization which represents a majority in any given class. (PS)

**EXPULSION** - Supports creative and appropriate alternatives. (PS)

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** – Supports as a requirement for participation a 2.0 cumulative grade point average. (LAI – 1990) Supports participation by full-time public school students only. (LAI – 1999)

**FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION** - Requests a 1994-95 evaluation, reports, and PTA participation on evaluation team. (R - 1994) Suggestions regarding curriculum. (1987 BOM) Supports mandated curriculum. (R - 1984)

**FERPA** - Opposes any changes. (PS)

**FINGERPRINTING** - Supports the requirement for fingerprinting/criminal records checks for all school board employees. (LAI - 1994)

**FOUR YEAR OLDS** – Opposes mandatory schooling. (PS)

**GIFTED/TALENTED STUDENTS** - Supports further development of guidelines and regularly scheduled evaluation of local division implementation to monitor local compliance, protect funding, and restore full funding to the summer program for the Governor's Schools and/or similar programs. (R - 1995)

**GRADUATION RATES DATA** - Supports policy that ensures the uniform assessment of high school graduation rates. The DOE will collect, analyze, and report high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed by the Board. (PS -2007)

**GRADUATION RATES** - Supports requiring state standards for high school graduation rates be part of the criteria for High School Accreditation. (LAI- 2007)

**GUIDANCE PROGRAMS** - Supports guidance programs which recognize parents' rights as primary decision-makers. Supports regulations, which address: establishment of communication links regarding program necessity, materials review, materials adoption, and parental involvement and consent. (PS)

**"HOMELESS" ATTENDANCE** - Supports barrier elimination, except health regulations, for attendance by homeless children. (PS)

**LOCAL AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY** - Opposes any constitutional change to reduce local school board authority/responsibility for public school supervision and administration. (PS)

**MIDDLE GRADE SCHOOLS** - Urges the General Assembly to designate middle grade as third distinct level of education and BOE to focus on changes regarding teacher preparation. (R - 1989)

**NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS** - Supports concept provided such schools are not established or maintained for the purpose of integration. (PS)

**OMBUDSMAN OFFICE** - Supports the creation and funding of an Office of Children Services Ombudsman for students with special needs in each school division. (LAI – 2007)

**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT** - Opposes the civil penalty for failure to sign the code. (R - 1995)

**PART-TIME STUDENTS** - Opposes legislation allowing part-time students. (LAI - 1998)

**PLEDGE** – Supports legislation that keeps the words "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. (R – 2002)

**PRE-K PROGRAMS** - Supports a requirement that local school divisions offer state funded, optional pre-K programs. (PS – 2007)

**RECESS** - Supports a requirement that all elementary school students receive unstructured daily recess that promotes physical activity and social interaction and cannot be used as a means of discipline without written parental consent. (LAI – 2007)

**REFORM** - Supports statewide input in any reform effort. (PS)

**SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORITY** - Opposes legislation to reduce the authority/responsibility of local boards for supervision/administration. (PS)

**SCHOOL BOARD TERMS/ELECTION** - Supports staggered terms (PS). Supports local option to elect. (PI - 1986)

**SCHOOL CALENDAR** - Supports local option and opposes mandated extension of school day. (R - 1991) Supports local option for school calendar. (R-1988) Supports five day school week. (PS)

**7 PERIOD DAY** - Supports option to use in middle/secondary schools. (PS)

**SOL** - Opposes legislation to convert from guidelines to regulations. (R - 1996) Supports review and revision at least every 5 years. (LAI – 2000)

**SOL TESTS** – Supports prohibition of high-stakes consequences. (LAI – 1999) Supports release of complete tests in compliance with FOI. (R – 1999) Supports allowing school boards to grant waivers to transfer students. (LAI – 2000) Supports a requirement that the Report to parents include margin of error, score range and explanations of both. (LAI – 2002)

**SPECIAL EDUCATION** - Opposes any changes to the "Regulations Governing Special Education Programs" which would diminish either parental consent or involvement or safeguards for children and youth. (R - 1995)

**STANDARDS/FUNDING** - Supports standards and funding to ensure quality programs throughout the Commonwealth. (PS) Supports continuation of the SOQs to ensure minimum programs. (PS) Supports amending SOQs to require weighted student/teacher ratio formula for disabled students. (R - 1996)

**STRIKES** - Opposes strikes or other interruption of service by public employees. (PS)

**STUDENT EVALUATION/SCHOOL ACCREDITATION** – Supports the use of multiple criteria for determining promotion, retention, graduation and school accreditation. (LAI – 2000)

**SYSTEM OF EDUCATION** - Supports a system where all parents/guardians are: recognized as child's first teacher and welcomed as partners, treated with respect and dignity, recognized as the principal decision-makers, communicated with in an appropriate manner. (PS)

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION** - Supports by BOE through constitutional mandate. (PS) Opposes exemption from existing licensure requirements. (LAI – 2000)

**TEACHER RESOURCE MATERIALS** – Supports the requirement for public notice and hearings prior to adoption of new or revised DOE provided resource materials related to SOL assessments. (LAI – 2001)

**TEMPORARILY EMPLOYED TEACHERS** - Supports legislation requiring local school districts to adopt employment policies that exceed requirements. (R - 1997)

**TESTING** - Supports testing programs that provide diagnostic as well as assessment data. Test scores provide information in determining achievement levels, but should not be the only factor determining promotion or retention. (PS) Amended to add "graduation or school accreditation." (PS – 1999) Amended to add ",or primary" after "only." (PS – 2000)

**TEXTBOOKS** - Supports a requirement that students have access to curriculum materials, including necessary textbooks, at home and in the classroom. (LAI- 2007)

**TRANSPORTATION** - Opposes the use of public school transportation to transport non-public-school students to/from non-public-schools. (PS)

**WAIVERS OR AMENDMENTS FROM NCLB** – Supports efforts to obtain waivers or amendments from the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) accountability requirements. (PS-2006)

## FINANCE

**AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN (ADC)** - Supports locality regrouping for equitable assistance determination, and support for resulting funding levels. (PS) Supports sufficient state funding to ensure those eligible receive 100% of the cost of living. (PS)

**ALTERNATIVE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS** - Supports legislation developing alternative methods of capital project financing for public education. (R - 1994)

**AUTONOMY** - Supports locality autonomy regarding the number of necessary schools with no loss of state funds. (PS)

**CIGARETTE TAX** – Supports increasing the cigarette tax with proceeds for additional funding of SOQs and/or health issues affecting juveniles. (R – 2003)

**FISCALLY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL BOARDS** - Supports constitutional amendment allowing local option. (PI - 1986)

**FUND DISTRIBUTION** - Supports a formula for equitable distribution. (PS) Supports funding which addresses certain localities' inability to generate sufficient funds. (PS) Supports funding for all preschool initiatives regardless of prior initiatives. (R – 2001)

**FUNDING LEVEL** - Supports maximum level funding for all mandated programs. (PS) Requests General Assembly fully fund the state's share of the Standards Of Quality (SOQs). (PI-1986) Supports requiring appropriate state funding to extend the school year beyond 180 days. (LAI – 2001) Supports enforcement of the General Assembly's statutory requirement for the funding of public education. (PS – 2004) Supports full funding provided to all school divisions for a broad-based K-12 curriculum. (PS – 2004)

**GUIDANCE COUNSELORS** - Supports legislation to provide funding for elementary school guidance counselors. (PI - 1986) Supports state-funding of elementary and secondary guidance counselors. (PS)

**GIFTED/TALENTED** - Protect funding for children and seek to restore full funding for Governor's Schools summer/similar programs. (R - 1995)

**KINDERGARTEN** - Supports the right to half-day program with full funding. (PS)

**LIMITS** - Opposes arbitrary limits on state appropriations. (PS)

**LITERARY FUND** - Supports legislation for portion designation for school construction/renovation. Minimum level be established to ensure availability of funds with undue delay. (R - 1992) Opposes use for anything other than school construction/renovation or legislation to decrease. (PS)

**LOCAL SCHOOL BUDGETS** - Opposes line item cuts by governing bodies. (PS) Supports automatic approval of a proposed budget if the governing body does not act upon the budget by the required dates. (PS)

**LOTTERY FUNDING** - Supports legislation which requires a portion of Lottery proceeds be appropriated for elementary/secondary education. (R - 1989) Supports designation of a percentage of proceeds be returned to localities for education purposes only. (LAI - 1994) Supports use of Lottery funds for construction/capital equipment/physical plant improvement. (PS)

**OFFICES ON YOUTH** - Supports continued funding by General Assembly. (R - 1994)

**POISON CONTROL CENTERS** - Supports continued funding through legislation. (R - 1994)

**PUBLIC FUNDS** - Opposes for non-public elementary/secondary education. (PS)

**PUBLIC LIBRARY** - Supports adequate funding for the public library system. (PS)

**REDUCTION OF DISPARITY** - Supports increased funding to reduce disparity. (R - 1991)

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT CENTERS** - Supports funding for expansion. (R - 1988)

**SALARIES** - Supports efforts to make education/support personnel competitive with other professions. (PS) Supports K-12 public school teachers' salaries at a level equal to or greater than the national average. (LAI - 2004)

**SALES TAX** - Supports local option for 1/2% sales tax with proceeds used for education. (R - 1989) Supports a statewide/local referenda to increase sales tax with 50% of increase used for K-12 public education. (LAI - 2003)

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION** - Supports adequate state funding to assist localities in all necessary school construction. (PS - 1999)

**STIPENDS** - Supports providing a stipend for highly qualified teachers and administrators to seek positions in underperforming schools. (LAI - 2004)

**VSRS (Virginia Supplemental Retirement System)** - Supports adequate state funding for, and opposes any action that threatens its benefits. (PS)

## HEALTH

**AIDS** - Supports education about. (R - 1995)

**ASBESTOS** - Supports review of current regulations & drafting new legislation to address ongoing concerns. (R - 1989)

**CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT** - Supports strengthening to include smoke free schools. (LAI - 1997) Supports creation. (R - 1988)

**COMMISSION ON SCHOOL HEALTH** - Supports legislation to establish. (R - 1993)

**CPR** - Supports legislation to require annual certification of 2 or more full time staff members in public schools. (R - 1997)

**CURRICULUM** - Supports a statewide health and physical education curriculum for all students. (PS)

**DRUG/STEROID TESTING** - Supports legislation allowing local school divisions to conduct random drug/steroid tests of students participating in extracurricular activities. (R - 1996)

**ELEMENTARY P.E.** - Supports legislation for promulgation of regulations by BOE. (LAI - 1997) Requests promulgation of regulations by BOE. (R - 1995)

**EPHEDRINE BAN** - Supports legislation restricting the sale and distribution to minors. (R - 1996)

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** - Endorses government's role in providing. (PS)

**HEALTH CARE** - Supports availability for every child. (PS) Supports health screening and appropriate medical services for every school-age child. (PS) Supports child health insurance plans or proposals which are the most inclusive. (R - 1997)

**HEARING LOSS** - Encourage state/local jurisdictions provide fiscal support for early identification. (R - 1995)

**HEIGHT AND WEIGHT DATA COLLECTION** - Supports the collection and reporting of data in K, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. (R - 2003)

**IMMUNIZATION RECORDS** - Supports requirement that records be maintained for all students. (LAI - 1999)

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT** - Supports legislation mandating record-keeping and notification of use. (R - 1996)

**LEAD POISONING PREVENTION** - Supports legislation for prevention through screening, environmental assessment, abatement licensure, and training of abatement professionals. (R - 1994)

**MARIJUANA** - Opposes legalization/down-scheduling of schedule I or II drugs, easing penalties for illegal sale, possession or use. (PS)

**MEDICAL PROCEDURES** - Opposes school board employee being required to perform those customarily performed by medical professionals. (PS)

**MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN** - Encourages Local Units to seek full federal law implementation at the local level concerning the rights of disabled children. (R - 1997)

**NUTRITION** - Supports school lunch/breakfast programs. (PS)

**PARENTAL NOTIFICATION** - Supports for minors seeking an abortion. (R - 1987)

**SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD** - Supports legislation that requires each school division form one. (R - 1989)

**SCHOOL HEALTH INSURANCE** - Supports legislation to provide. (LAI - 1998)

**SCHOOL NURSES** - Supports legislation to provide funding for RNs/LPNs in schools. (R-1995) Opposes school nurses be certified by BOE. (PS)

**SCOLIOSIS SCREENING** - Supports state mandated distribution of scoliosis awareness information and legislation for mandatory in school screening in grades 5 through 12. (R - 2002)

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE** - Supports school/community programs for prevention, recognition and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse. (PS)

## JUVENILE PROTECTION

**ALCOHOL POSSESSION** - Supports banning the possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages on school property. (LAI -1994)

**AMUSEMENT RIDES** - Supports safety and inspection regulations and requiring reporting/investigation of accidents. (PI - 1986)

**ATVs** - Supports legislation to restrict the sale and use. (PI - 1989)

**BICYCLE HELMETS** - Supports legislation for mandated use of protective helmets. (R - 1994)

**BACKGROUND CHECKS** - Supports requiring background check(s) for all volunteers working with children. (R - 2007)

**CAMPS** - Supports statewide minimum standards. (PS)

**CHILD ABUSE DEFINITION** - Opposes legislation to change. (E.C.1992)

**CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS)** - Opposes place of CHINS in secure correctional/detention facilities unless child has run away from such. (PS)

**CHILDREN IN NEED OF SUPERVISION** - Seeks legislation to allow children to be detained in a secure facility. (R -1988)

**CHILD LABOR LAWS** - Supports rigid enforcement and continual review. (PS)

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** - Opposes in public school. (PI - 1989)

**CONFIDENTIALITY** - Requests Code amendment to protect privacy of student's scholastic records. (R - 1995) Opposes any change to FERPA. (R - 1989) Opposes release from juvenile court records without a court order. (PS)

**CURFEWS** - Supports. (R - 1994)

**DRAM SHOP** - Supports legislation to enact. (R - 1993)

**DRIVER'S EDUCATION** - Supports requiring all minors meet the same permitting and licensing requirements. (LAI - 2004)

**DUI** - Supports reclassification of manslaughter and mandate. (R - 1992) Supports drug testing law enforcement. (PS) Supports mandatory suspension upon first conviction. (R - 1987) Supports testing for drugs. (PS)

**EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT** - Supports children's right to learn in a safe/non-violent environment. (PS)

**ELECTRONIC TESTIMONY** - Supports the use of for presenting testimony of a child who has been the victim of a kidnapping, sexual or physical assault, or family offense. (PI - 1986)

**FIREARM SAFETY** - Seeks legislation requiring trigger locks & firearm storage. (R - 1989)

**GANG VIOLENCE** - Supports a policy which addresses gang violence and recruitment and seeks law enforcement, education, community, and social agencies collaboration with PTA in educating parents and teachers on the influence and negative impact of gangs and gang violence. (PS - 2006)

**GUN FREE SCHOOL ZONES** - Supports legislation requiring establishment & identification, and increase penalties for possession, discharging or brandishing within. (R - 1994)

**HANDGUN PURCHASE** - Seeks legislation for waiting periods/limits/bans. (R - 1992 & R - 1990)

**HAZARD FREE ZONES** - Seeks enactment of legislation/local code to prohibit hunting area creation in the vicinity of schools/residential areas. (R - 1991)

**HEALTH/BACKGROUND SCREENING** - Supports for prospective workers in child-care positions. (PS)

**HOMELESS FAMILIES W/CHILDREN** - Seeks legislation to provide sufficient resources for prevention/identification & development of affordable housing, education and social services. (R - 1989)

**INTERACTIVE SOFTWARE VIOLENCE** - Supports legislation or regulation to require a rating system. (R - 1994)

**INTERNET ACCESS** - Supports restricting the receipt of state and/or local funding by public schools, libraries, and other public facilities that do not provide Internet filtering

software on computers used by minors. (R – 2003)

**KEG REGISTRATION** - Supports legislation requiring. (R - 1991)

**LIABILITY FOR CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS** – Supports legislation holding adults responsible for children's access to and possession of firearms. (R – 1998)

**LOOK-ALIKE WEAPONS** - Seeks legislation making it illegal to sell, etc. to anyone under 18. (R - 1994)

**LIQUOR** - Opposes the retail sale except by ABC Board. (R - 1992)

**MANDATORY LOSS OF OPERATORS LICENSE** - Supports legislation when 13-17 year olds convicted of drug/alcohol law violation. (R - 1988)

**MINIMUM SELF-CARE AGE** - Supports legislation to create a mandatory minimum age of 10 years for self-care and without competent supervision. (R-1987)

**NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** – Supports local authority regarding student discipline when violations of possession occur. (PS – 2000)

**NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL LICENSING STANDARDS** - Supports state standards for private schools, child-care centers & family day-care homes. (PS)

**OBSCENE AND PRONOGRAPHIC MATERIALS** – Supports the development and implementation of an Internet Safety program. (R – 2007)

**PREVENTABLE HAZARDS** - Supports protection of children from. (PS)

**REASON TO SUSPECT** - Opposes removal from Central Registry. (E.C. 1992)

**RESEARCH** - Requests Code amendment to require written parental consent before minor children may be tested, surveyed or involved in experimental research programs. (R - 1995)

**ROCK CONCERTS** - Supports legislation for minimum age (17) attendance unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. (R-1988)

**SALE AND RENTAL TO MINORS** – Supports the restriction of the sale or rental to minors of pre-recorded music with a parental advisory rating and, computer and video products with a mature rating that contain or promote sex, violence, or illicit drug/alcohol use. (LAI-2006)

**SEAT BELTS** - Supports the use for all occupants of motor vehicles. (PS)

**SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS** - Supports legislation allowing background checks at local option, local expense. (LAI - 1998)

**STRIP SEARCHING** – Opposes the strip- searching of any student by a school board employee. (PS – 1999)

**TEENAGE DRIVING** – Supports certain organizations' legislative efforts to amend the Code of Virginia relative to teen driving. (R – 2000)

**TOBACCO (Sale/Accessibility)** - Supports legislation to prohibit vending machine sales. (R - 1994)

**TOBACCO (Minor use)** - Seeks legislation for prohibition. (R - 1988) Supports minimum age of 16 for purchase. (PI - 1986) **(Use Prevention)** – Requests dedication of Tobacco Settlement funds to advance a tobacco use prevention and cessation program. (R – 1999)

**TRANSPORTATION** - Supports safe transportation on public school buses. (PS)

**TROUBLED YOUTH** - Supports community-based services for treatment/rehabilitation. (PS)

**TV VIOLENCE** - Seeks regulations for a blocking device. (R - 1994)

**VANDALISM** - Supports substantial penalties with fiscal/legal responsibility for parents/guardians. (PS)