

## What is a Legislative Program?

A *legislative program* is the primary authority for action taken by an organization on federal and/or state legislation and regulations. It is the document containing legislative statements approved by the organization's membership. It identifies issues of importance to the organization and outlines the issues to be addressed by the membership.

The authority for legislative activity on the part of PTA is stated in the third *PTA Purpose*: “*To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.*” This is the basis on which all legislative activity is conducted by PTA and its members.

The *PTA Legislative Program* contains:

- *Legislative directives* identify the organization's current legislative priorities. It is generally a summary of the *legislative program* and is reviewed by the PTA Board of Managers/Directors every two years.
- *Legislative policy statements* are broad statements on children's issues that form the basis for *resolutions* and *position statements*. *Policy statements* define the fields of legislation to be addressed by PTA and specify the requirements that must be met by any legislative bill, law, or regulation concerning children and youth before it can receive consideration by PTA. *Policy statements* are approved by delegates at the annual PTA convention.
- *Position statements* are statements of supported concepts and positions. *Position statements* are initiated by committees and are approved by the PTA Board of Managers/Directors.
- *Resolutions* are legislative proposals. They are a call for action and seek to address problems, situations, or concerns that affect children and youth state or nationwide. All proposed *resolutions* must fall within the framework of the *legislative policy statements*. *Resolutions* are reviewed by the PTA Board of Managers/Directors and then approved by delegates at the annual PTA convention.

The *PTA Legislative Program* is reviewed each year by the PTA Legislative Committee. Any recommended changes are forwarded to the PTA Board of Managers/Directors for review and approval. The PTA Board of Managers/Directors also determines the priority legislative issues to be focused on each year and forwards this information to its membership.