

4.13 Subsidizing Certificated and Classified Staff Salaries

Resolution passed 2012

Whereas, it is common practice for PTAs to supplement the educational experiences available to the children in their communities through programs conducted outside of the regular school day; and

Whereas, supporting such programs may in individual instances require payment of a stipend to a school staff member for work conducted beyond the staff's contract with the school district; and

Whereas, such support is consistent with PTA's mission of being a resource for parents and communities, and with PTA's vision of making every child's potential a reality; and

Whereas, National PTA states that a PTA renders a greater service by working to secure adequate funding for programs that have an enduring benefit and strongly suggests that PTAs should not contribute to the problem of inequities within a school district by engaging in excessive fundraising; and

Whereas, Washington State PTA, as a child advocacy organization, believes that a key focus should be advocating for improved and sustainable education funding for all students and that PTAs should not fund additional school staff during the school day, an occurrence that places school districts in the difficult position of trying to continue funding said staff once PTA funding ceases; and

Whereas, the Washington State Constitution states that it is the "Paramount duty to make ample provision for the education of all children without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste or sex" and further directs the legislature to "provide for a general and uniform system of public schools", and these duties were recently reaffirmed by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington; and

Whereas, it is necessary for the state to be held fully accountable for the funding of basic education; and

Whereas, the subsidizing of additional school staff during the school day through use of PTA funds carries a number of risks including, but not limited to, increasing inequities in students' learning experiences, creating a misleading perception of the resources available to a school or district, skewing data used for tracking student progress and creating an ongoing obligation for the district that it cannot sustain.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will continue to advocate for and support education reform measures including adequate and sustainable funding for basic education; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA advises its local PTAs and councils to use their resources to enhance every student's educational experience through the funding of programs and activities outside of the regular school program rather than by providing resources for additional staff during the school day.