



Better Laws Make Better Lives for Children!

PTA units and councils are encouraged to submit Resolutions or Legislative Platform Items (planks) for consideration by the delegates at Convention.

Resolutions and Legislative Platform Items must be received at the Iowa PTA office by November 1

Send to: Iowa PTA Office
5619 N.W. 86th St., Suite 600
Johnston, IA 50131-2955

For more information, contact the Iowa PTA Office:
Phone: (515)225-6363 or (800)475-4782
Email: ia_office@pta.org

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ITEM (PLANK)

A legislative plank is a motion that requires action by the Iowa legislature.

When a plank is adopted by the convention delegates, it becomes a part of the legislative platform.

It is subject to change by delegates at future conventions.

A plank consists of two parts:

Statement of Support – describes the legislation that would be supported by this plank

Rationale – states the reason for including this plank in the legislative platform

In order to be eligible for consideration by convention delegates, a plank must:

Be statewide in scope

Be consistent with PTA mission and purpose

Have supporting documentation or rationale

Be received by November 1 at the Iowa PTA office

Example of a platform item:

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Iowa PTA supports legislation that would provide adequate resources to update and maintain Iowa's public schools.

***RATIONALE:** Many of Iowa's schools pose safety hazards to children including fire hazards and environmental quality issues (e.g. radon, asbestos, lead). Additionally, many of Iowa's schools do not meet the technological needs for the 21st century. A recent study indicated that it would cost several billion dollars to update Iowa's public schools. In order to be equitable, this financial burden needs to be shared at the state level.*

RESOLUTIONS

A resolution is a main motion that, because of its importance, length or complexity, is submitted in writing.

When a resolution is adopted by the convention delegates, it becomes a part of the Iowa PTA's continuing resolutions. To amend a resolution at a later convention, a delegate must make a motion "to amend a previously adopted resolution."

A resolution consists of two parts:

Preamble – the "whereas" clause(s)

The "whereas" clauses contain the background information and the reasons for the resolution.

Request for Action – the "resolved" clause(s)

The "resolved" clauses contain the requests for action. Each action requested should have its own "resolved" clause.

In order to be eligible for consideration by convention delegates, a resolution must:

Be statewide in scope

Be consistent with PTA mission and purpose

Have supporting documentation or rationale

Be received by November 1 at the Iowa PTA office

Example of a resolution:

*RESOLUTION
PLAYGROUND INJURY PREVENTION*

- Whereas, Iowa PTA's are reporting an increase in playground injuries; and*
- Whereas, National statistics indicate that approximately 237,000 children under the age of fifteen require hospital emergency room treatment annually for injuries related to playground equipment; and*
- Whereas, Seventeen children die annually as a result of playground related injuries; and*
- Whereas, The Consumer Federation of America and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission have established guidelines for playground safety and injury prevention; therefore be it*
- Resolved, That the Iowa PTA urge its constituent bodies to become more knowledgeable in recognizing the hazards of playgrounds in their communities; and be it further*
- Resolved, That the Iowa PTA through its constituent bodies encourage the Iowa Department of Education and all local school districts and municipalities to enact guidelines for school playground safety.*

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

The deadline for submitting resolutions is November 1. If an issue arises after that date, it is possible to submit an emergency resolution.

In order to be considered by the convention delegates, an emergency resolution must:

- Address an urgent issue that arose after the November 1 filing date for resolutions
- Be statewide in scope
- Be consistent with PTA mission and purpose
- Have supporting documentation or rationale
- Not conflict with the proposed Legislative Program (platform, resolutions, and position statements)
- Not concern items already on the convention agenda

Also:

A copy of the resolution must be presented to the Vice President for Legislation or the Legislative Chairman by the first general session of convention with signatures of twenty-five (25) voting delegates.

A delegate from the issuing unit or council must be available for discussion with the Executive Committee.

Copies of the resolution must be furnished by the issuing unit or council for each convention delegate. Copies may not be distributed until approved by the Executive Committee.