

## RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

- Whereas, All students need to be educated in environments which are supportive and free from abuse, assault, injury, trauma and risk to life; and
- Whereas, The use of inappropriate restraint and seclusion methods by untrained school personnel has resulted in the assault, injury, trauma and, in some cases, death of children in public schools; and
- Whereas, Children at risk, in particular children with disabilities, are disproportionately subjected to inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion by untrained school personnel; and
- Whereas, The use of mechanical restraints shall not be practiced by school personnel, shall only be used by trained medical or law enforcement professionals, and, school personnel shall be prohibited from imposing the using chemical restraints on any student; and
- Whereas, The use of seclusion must include constant direct monitoring of the welfare of the student, including the ability for immediate intervention and, facilities used for seclusion must allow self-egress in case of emergencies, must comply with life safety codes for confinement, and must be designed to keep children safe; be it therefore
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations support legislation, regulations, policies, and programs that emphasize the use of positive or non-aversive interventions thereby limiting the use of restraint and seclusion on students; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations support legislation, regulations, policies, and programs that ensure the safety of children in emergency cases where restraint and seclusion is needed; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations, will seek, via educational literature, programs and projects, to educate the school community and parents about the risks of excessive and/or inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion by untrained school personnel; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations support legislation, regulations, policies, and programs providing that the use of restraint and seclusion practices shall only be used as a last resort in emergency\* situations, not as a substitute for comprehensive school-wide supports and accommodations; and seclusion and restraint interventions shall cease as soon as the immediate danger of physical harm ceases to exist; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations will advocate for the

engagement of parents of all children who may be subject to restraint and seclusion in the decision-making process, not only in an IEP or other education meeting, but also in every aspect of a student's education with regard to the use of emergency restraint and seclusion.

*\*Emergency is defined as an unanticipated and already occurring event that is placing the individual or others in imminent danger of physical harm.*

Adopted: by the 2015 Convention Delegates