

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & SCHOOL GARDENS

- Whereas, The agriculture industry plays a vital role in society by providing food, fiber for clothing, fuel, renewable resources, land management, wildlife habitat preservation, tourism and recreation opportunities; and
- Whereas, The UN estimates that the world population will reach 8.5 billion by 2030, and as high as 9.8 billion by 2050, requiring a 70 percent increase in global food production; and
- Whereas, Employment in agricultural and food-related industries supports employment in other industries and is a critical component of the United States economy; and
- Whereas, The average American farmer is 57 years old with few young people entering the field; and
- Whereas, Farming and the study of agriculture, food, and natural resources is often overlooked as a profession, yet is a STEM career that relies on advanced technology to meet consumer demand and the study of biology and genetics, engineering, physics, chemistry, math, geology/hydrology, and other scientific fields; and
- Whereas, Farm to School programs and school gardens support local economic development, provide students with access to healthy food and provide valuable exposure to the farming industry and hands-on lessons in nutrition and agriculture; and
- Whereas, There is a shortage of agriculture education teachers; therefore be it
- Resolved, That National PTA supports the integration of agriculture education in the K-12 curriculum, hands-on experiences in school gardens and an expansion of career technical education programs in order to support rural workforce development, agriculture innovation and informed personal choices about diet, health and the environment. National PTA supports high school agriculture courses being considered as credits that fulfill the science requirements for graduation; and be it further

- Resolved, That National PTA supports grant programs, incentives, funding and staffing that encourages schools to procure and serve more locally grown foods that directly support farm to school and school garden programs and provide direct training opportunities for classroom teachers to expand their use of hands-on agriculture in the classroom and school gardens; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA supports facility standards that include space for a school garden; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA supports the development of teacher training programs that create a direct education and certification pathway for agriculture education teachers; and be it further
- Resolved, That this resolution shall be in full force and effect until the last day of June 2029.
- Adopted: by the 2022 Convention delegates