PROPOSED RESOLUTION

SOLAR ENERGY FOR SCHOOLS

Whereas, Schools across the United States are switching to solar because of significant cost savings, the opportunity for students to learn about renewable energy, and positive environmental impacts; and

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Energy estimates K-12 schools spend more than $8 billion per year on energy, and energy costs in many districts are second only to salaries; and

Whereas, School districts typically finance solar through third party agreements such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) in which a solar developer installs, owns and maintains the solar systems thus allowing the school system to purchase only the power that is consumed [from the developer], which is typically at a lower electricity rate than what the utility company would charge; and therefore be it

Resolved, That National PTA supports legislation and programs that remove net metering limits and barriers that limit school district’s use of Power Purchase Agreements and other third-party financing options to improve access to clean energy solutions; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA supports grant and solar funding incentive programs that enable school districts to shift to clean energy; and be it further

Resolved, That National PTA supports inclusion of clean energy themed curriculum in K-12 instruction and professional development to enable teachers to include project based, interdisciplinary, and authentic lessons on clean energy, solar energy, energy efficiency and energy storage.

*Net metering is a policy that allows people with solar to get a credit on their electric bill for the energy they produce from their system.*
RATIONALE
Schools can reduce and stabilize energy costs by switching to solar while concurrently providing real-world STEM learning opportunities, supporting vocational training opportunities, reducing fossil fuel pollution and reducing exposure to volatile energy prices.

Nationwide, the number of schools with solar grew by 81% since 2014. Solar schools now make up 5.5% of all public and private K-12 schools and 16% of K-12 school districts have some solar energy use. States that rank at the bottom for implementation of solar schools face utility barriers, poor net metering policies and few options for third party financing.