

LITERACY

WHEREAS, Reading is the most critical skill children must learn in order to be educated and prepared for a productive adult life; and

WHEREAS, Many of Utah's children are not achieving the necessary reading proficiency to be successfully educated and gain meaningful career opportunities as adults; and

WHEREAS, Most of our social problems of crime, drugs, teen pregnancy, homelessness, unemployment and underemployment can be traced to inadequate education; and

WHEREAS, Because of the myriad factors which contribute to this problem (economics, culture, mobility, large class sizes, children unprepared with skills and discipline needed when entering school) which cannot be overcome by a teacher alone; and

WHEREAS, One-to-one early intervention (K-3), focusing on student reading skills and strategies improves comprehension, thinking, self esteem, and enjoyment of reading; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage support of volunteer participation to help meet the needs of students at all grade levels who are deficient in reading abilities; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage support of efforts and programs to increase reading comprehension in all subject areas (story problems in math; information, facts and figures and meaning in history, science, etc.); and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage other means of improving literacy efforts within the community, including improving school libraries and making materials and training more accessible to the volunteer and student and their parents; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage the Governor and the State Legislature to make literacy a priority for all Utah students.