

ELEMENTARY COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS, Studies acknowledge that the most favorable time for supporting the development of effective learning and social skills of children is in the elementary grades; and
- WHEREAS, Interventions that assist in academic and social behavior changes are more effectively accomplished in grades K-6; and
- WHEREAS, Elementary school counseling and guidance programs are based on skill development, prevention, intervention, and post-intervention activities and are programmatically designed to support ALL students in the development of healthy life and learning skills and to provide specific activities assisting students who are experiencing difficulty; and
- WHEREAS, Secondary schools in Utah have a guidance specialist/student ratio of 1:375 while the ratio of guidance specialist to student in elementary schools in 1:990; and
- WHEREAS, Over 20,000 elementary students in rural Utah have no access to services offered within a counseling and guidance program; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support increased funding for programs of counseling and guidance in Utah's elementary schools; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA be involved in local and statewide efforts to educate parents, teachers, administrators and policy makers including school board members, to understand the need for and benefit of counseling and guidance programs in elementary schools.