

## EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- WHEREAS, The Utah PTA is committed to promoting the educational needs and the welfare of our children and youth; and
- WHEREAS, The Federal regulations Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, require states to provide equal opportunities in education for students with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, IDEA has never been fully funded by the Federal Government, leaving individual states to fund these programs as well as they are able; and
- WHEREAS, The Federal regulations Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind) and Utah's Education Amendments Act (2003), as well as IDEA and Section 504 impact children with disabilities in complex and unpredictable ways; and
- WHEREAS, Over 59,000 of Utah's youth currently require public special education programs and facilities; and
- WHEREAS, The percentage of children diagnosed with disabilities is increasing (especially neurological processing disabilities including Attention Deficit Disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorders; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its organizations support continued state and local funding to at least the present level to sustain present programs to educate students with disabilities, including intellectual, physical, emotional, and psychological disabilities; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its organizations continue to support the right of each student with a disability to have access to an equal education via whatever means reasonable and necessary to specific disabilities, such as Individualized Education Programs (IEP's) and 504 Accommodation Plans, which may include transportation, therapy, special services/equipment, reasonable accommodations and other supportive services the child requires to benefit from his/her educational program; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its organizations continue to provide support for parents of children with disabilities through PTA board representatives, parent mentor programs, support groups, educational workshops, and literature; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its organizations support education policies and legislation that will improve advocacy and parental education within the public school system to benefit children with special needs.

(Updated Terminology 2005)