

TRUANCY

WHEREAS, One of four characteristics that help identify "at risk" children is, "SCHOOL/SOCIAL" (attendance problems and discipline problems); and

WHEREAS, Early indicators of poor self-esteem, low academic achievement, truancy/discipline problems and other characteristics of being "at risk" in the elementary grades can be overcome in the classroom and with adequate parent education; and

WHEREAS, The key to any kind of attendance program is good, accurate reporting; and

WHEREAS, Through accurate record keeping and parental involvement, school attendance figures can change dramatically; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage its local and council PTAs to work with their school boards to gauge the extent of the truancy problem and gather support for programs to help children who are truant; and be it further

Resolved, That local and council PTAs determine which programs are available in their school districts for children deemed "at risk", and whether all children eligible for such programs are being served; and be it further

Resolved, That local and council PTAs work with school administrators and school boards to obtain additional authority and funding from state and local governments for collaborative programs involving the schools, other public agencies and community organizations in solving truancy problems; and be it further

Resolved, That schools be encouraged to use computer-generated calls, "live" calls from school secretaries, volunteers or students, and other types of home contact to inform and involve parents in the process; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA work to strengthen the family unit by better educating parents concerning the value of keeping their children in school; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA also encourage state and local agencies to develop and implement alternative methods of addressing and solving the problems of truancy.