

RESOLUTION

(Adopted by the 1999 convention delegates)

CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

- WHEREAS, Research shows that smaller classes promote student achievement in the early grades. The significant effects of class size reduction on student achievement appear when class size is reduced to a point between 15 and 20 students; and
- WHEREAS, If class size is reduced from substantially more than 20 students per class to below 20 students, the related increase in student achievement moves the average student from the 50th percentile up to above the 60th percentile, on national standardized achievement tests; and
- WHEREAS, Classroom atmosphere is more positive in smaller classes, as indicated by more attentive students, better behavior, more positive interaction between teachers and students, improved attendance and more time on task during the school day and increases the likelihood that potential learning problems will be identified and prevented; and
- WHEREAS, The pupil-teacher ratio in the 15 Denver metro school districts is 25.9 which for exceeds current recommendations and Colorado's 1996 class size ranked 43 of 50 states and the ratio of classroom teachers to students has steadily declined in Colorado for the last 10 years; and
- WHEREAS, The Federal government recognizes the need for reduced class size and has allocated approximately 1.2 billion nationally with 13.1 million to come to Colorado in 1999; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA, its units, councils and regions urge the local and statewide policy-makers and citizens of Colorado to make a commitment to reducing class size in Colorado public schools; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA and its units, councils and regions conduct public media/information campaigns to educate the public on the lasting benefits to public school students of reduced class size, and the Colorado PTA develop and make available to PTA units, councils and regions a standardized basic Colorado class size reduction presentation which includes facts and statistics that can be presented to schools, communities, businesses and governments to convince all Coloradans of the need to reduce the class size in Colorado schools; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Colorado PTA, its units, councils and regions seek and support or sponsor legislation to reduce class size, and ensure appropriate and adequate funds to implement this plan, which includes recruitment and training as needed for qualified/quality teachers.