

SCHOOL TRUST LANDS AND FUNDS

National PTA

1. Whereas, Early in our nation's history founding fathers recognized the importance to support public education by establishing school trust lands in every state and the establishment of corresponding permanent school funds, either by Congress or by the states themselves; and
 2. Whereas, Federal laws created and regulated territorial expansion and statehood providing all states the ability to enter the union on equal footing, and recognized that some states would have vast acreages of untaxable federal lands, trust lands and funds were granted to states to support public schools and to compensate for untaxed federal lands; and
 3. Whereas, Additional grants were provided to create a revenue stream for children with special needs such as schools for the deaf, the blind, and at-risk populations; and
 4. Whereas, States have lost a portion—or all—of the granted lands and resulting perpetual revenue stream due to lack of awareness on the part of parents and community members, and due to the lack of diligence on the part of education leaders and policy makers regarding these trusts and funds, and
 5. Whereas, Many school trusts have lands to which they are still entitled from the federal government since statehood; and
 6. Whereas, Changes in management of lands and funds initiated and promoted by schools and parents have either brought about increased annual revenue streams to public schools, or protected the given revenue stream;
- RESOLVED, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations shall provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, and the public about school and institutional trust lands and permanent school funds including the compensation or grant entitlements of which the beneficiaries have been denied since statehood; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations shall advocate for management of the school trusts that is consistent with legally recognized trust principles of sound financial management to provide the maximum benefit to the children in public education who are the beneficiaries of those trusts and to ensure that these funds do not supplant existing educational funding; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the National PTA and its constituent organizations urge state and federal lawmakers to support public schools by ensuring that the historic trusts are allowed to fulfill the purpose for which they were originally created.

Adopted June 26, 2006