

# Board Positions and Resolutions

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Updated May 2012

## Cultural Arts

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### ARTS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND WASHINGTON STATE

5.3, Resolution originally passed 2005 (combined Resolutions 5.1 and 5.2); updated 2012

**Whereas**, one of the purposes of PTA is to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education; and

**Whereas**, National PTA believes that the arts are central to learning and that infusing the arts into elementary and secondary education curricula is key to the development of students (Arts in Education position statement); and

**Whereas**, the arts are a mandated core subject in Washington State, and

**Whereas**, the arts are found in schools today in varying stages of acceptance and differing programs of instruction; and

**Whereas**, parents and educators are concerned about the nourishment of their student's creativity, imagination and cultural heritage; and

**Whereas**, students need the arts as part of a complete education to develop their creative talents and discover their artistic, creative, and aesthetic judgment; and

**Whereas**, arts learning can be used to develop student's self-esteem and self-image, understand human civilization, broaden their understanding of work ethics, visual and aural images, and human value; and

**Whereas**, arts education teaches creative problem-solving and cultural knowledge, and offers multiple pathways to understanding for different types of learners; and

**Whereas**, a complete education should respond to the needs of all types of intelligence in students to help them become responsible and productive citizens; and

**Whereas**, arts education increases connections and engagement between educators, students and the connected community that surrounds them

### Therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA, local units, and councils continue to be strong advocates for improved arts education programs, encouraging school districts, educators and other interested sources to integrate the arts in their school curriculums, programs and activities, as essential elements of a child's basic education; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA will continue developing public awareness of the need for arts education and equitable access to arts learning in our public schools and formally recognize May as Arts Education Month in Washington, calling upon the community to celebrate the arts and promote the importance of arts education for every student at every school.