Background:
- Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing at least 10% (18 school days) of school in a year, has been linked to lower academic performance. With the pandemic and the lifting of the imposition of administrative penalties as defined Utah code 53G-6-S203, districts have witnessed a sharp increase in absenteeism, from 13% pre-pandemic to 19%.
- This resolution updates Utah PTA resolution from 2014 and new research and requests a renewed focus on this issue from all stakeholders.

What the Resolution does:
The resolution explains that
- Chronic absenteeism has consequences for our youth that go beyond lower academic success, but has behavioral consequences and worse mental health outcomes
- Chronic absenteeism is rather well understood by research, with a variety of reasons that can be broken down into 3 main categories (barriers (e.g. health, transportation, housing instability, adult responsibility, and suspension), aversion (feeling unwelcome, unsupported, or unsafe at school) and disengagement (lack of motivation and lack of value)
- Chronic absenteeism does not affect all populations equally.
- The role of parents is of paramount importance in chronic absenteeism.

The resolution urges to
- Conduct efforts to timely identify/detect students chronically absent
- Use evidenced-based practices to address chronic absenteeism
- To analyze chronic absenteeism and have an early warning system,
- To reach out to parents and caregivers to educate them about the virtue and importance of attendance
- Have LEAs to offer a variety of programs to catch at-risk students up
- Appropriate funding as needed to support the initiatives mentioned above.

What the Resolution doesn’t do:
- NA

Why we need this Resolution:
- This resolution will help Utah PTA fight for children’s academic success