

By direction of the Board of Directors, the following proposed resolution on “Operation Ready to Learn” will be included in the agenda of the 2015 Georgia PTA Convention Leadership Training for consideration by the delegates.

“ Operation Ready to Learn”

RATIONALE

At present there are dozens of schools in Georgia that have been identified as failing schools by Opportunity School District standard. Schools must have scored at least 60 out of 100 points on the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) over the last three consecutive years. Standardized test scores are major indicators. These schools became eligible for state intervention. There were other criteria in the calculated score such as school climate and achievement. However, these failing schools were rated largely based on standardized test scores which did not fully reflect an accurate picture of these schools.

“Operation Ready to Learn” (ORTL) was inspired by Georgia PTA to create an alternative approach to resolving the major issues facing schools today. Schools need more staff to adequately support students’ needs. Guidance counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, nurses, and school breakfast and lunch programs play an important role in student success.

Georgia PTA supports initiatives that are diverse and inclusive for all children. Family engagement is instrumental in ensuring that students are “ready to learn” and involves parents, community resources, and schools in the resolution of issues facing children. Schools play an essential role in preparing children to become knowledgeable, responsible, caring adults. In order for these educational challenges to be met, children must be ready and motivated to learn, and have the capacity to integrate new information into their lives. Being “ready to learn” must be seen as a prerequisite for success in school.

Georgia PTA recognizes that improving student achievement requires not only parents preparing children for school, but also schools planning for the students they serve by coordinating services to address the needs of all children such as special education, disabilities, at-risk and more.