



THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The legislative program of the Montana PTA is determined by the three following processes. They are:

- a. Issues selected at the Legislative Assembly.
- b. Resolutions adopted at the State PTA convention.
- c. Positions adopted by the State PTA Board of Directors.

Legislative issues selected by the delegates at the legislative Assembly become priority issues defining the Montana PTA legislative program for the current year. As the association's legislative priorities, they are the primary factors in determining the actions and activities of the Legislative/Advocacy Chair, lobbyists, and other PTA members during the legislative session. They determine what, given the financial and human resources available, the State PTA will monitor and attempt to affect/influence through supporting, opposing, or writing legislation, as well as working with other groups, coalitions and organizations.

Resolutions adopted by the delegates at the association's annual business meeting (the annual state convention) are long-term positions of the Montana PTA as outlined in the Legislative Platform "Where We Stand." Resolutions allow the Board of Directors, the Legislative/Advocacy Chair, committees, lobbyists, and other PTA members to represent the position(s) of the State PTA on issues addressed by the resolutions.

The Montana State PTA Board of Directors adopts **board positions** in response to a situation, which usually requires immediate attention by the association. Positions are consistent with the mission and purposes of PTA and are not in conflict with legislative priorities or resolutions.

The Relationship

Legislative issues define the *proactive* legislative agenda of the Montana PTA for a current year. Resolution and Board positions tend to define the *reactive* agenda for the association.

General Criteria for Developing an Issue Statement or Resolution

To be appropriate for consideration, a legislative policy statement shall:

1. concern a field of interest of the Montana PTA;
2. be in harmony with the basic policies of the Montana PTA;
3. concern a matter which is statewide in scope and requires statewide action for solution;
4. be written in language appropriate for statewide consideration;
5. be accompanied by background material sufficient to give a person with no previous knowledge of the subject enough information to make an intelligent decision.