

The NAPT Resolutions Process

A well-crafted resolution gives NAPT members and staff a clearly stated goal while providing flexibility to advocate for school transportation and school bus safety positions and lobby for a solution that meets member needs.

Consider the following when drafting a proposed resolution:

History. Review current NAPT positions to determine whether and in what manner the issue has been previously addressed.

Relevancy. Resolutions should be “global” rather than “local.” They should have a national impact or at least be relevant to most school transportation operators in the nation. NAPT is a national-level organization and its positions should represent a broad spectrum of the school transportation community.

Transportation-focused. Resolutions should focus specifically on school transportation and directly related matters. In addition, resolutions should have broad implications and should not focus on changes in law or regulations that merely affect a few operators/operations.

Timeliness. Resolutions should address timely issues school transportation officials and services currently face. This will help enable NAPT to better advocate on particular issues.

Clarity. Resolutions should be clear in their stated goal or intent, and their rationale. If the resolution itself is unclear or the rationale is ambiguous, imprecise or fails to convey the resolution’s relevance to other member school boards, the resolution may fail.

Flexibility. Resolutions should guide advocacy, not prescribe one specific solution. They should be worded broadly enough to provide NAPT with the latitude to apply their intent in order to achieve the resolution’s goal. Resolutions are not “draft legislation” but rather proposed positions of the association.

Position. Resolutions should be carefully drafted to avoid redundancy in, or conflict with, current positions. Existing positions should be repealed rather than contradicted.

Drafting an Effective Resolution or Bylaw Amendment

In drafting a proposed resolution or bylaw amendment, keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Begin your resolution or bylaw amendment with a single “resolved” clause that clearly states the intent and objective of the resolution.
- Deal with only one issue per resolution. **Do not include “whereas” clauses.** If you have more than one issue, submit more than one resolution.
- Word your resolution in broad, general terms, which indicate your goal but leave out specific methods and techniques that prescribe its implementation.
- Keep in mind the “resolved” clause is what delegates will actually vote upon. The “rationale” statement is meant to support the “resolved” clause, which, in essence, is your resolution.
- Make sure the arguments in support of your resolution outweigh the arguments in opposition to it in an objective discussion.
- Submit your resolution on your state association’s letterhead. It must be signed by the state association’s president, evidencing the broad support of the state association’s board or members.
- Designate a contact person, with the power to modify the resolution or bylaw amendment in consultation with the Resolution Committee. Include that person’s name and daytime

telephone number with the resolution. That person must be available to respond to any questions about the resolution from members of the committee.

- Submit your resolution or bylaw amendment early, before the **XXXXXXXXX deadline**. This will allow NAPT staff and the resolutions committee sufficient time to review the language and contact you for clarification if necessary.

Remember: A resolution should have a Single Resolved clause. It should state a clear and concise position statement. It should deal with timely and broadly relevant issues. It should have national, not regional or local, relevance. It should be broadly worded to allow flexibility in preparing advocacy and action plans. It should focus on a core belief of the Association (e.g., safety). It should be timely and responsive to the political environment and address a matter of broad significance. Finally, it should call on the NAPT to act or cause action to be taken.

RESOLUTION WORKSHEET

Be it resolved _____

Rationale _____

Signed By:
_____ **State Association President**
_____ **State Association**
_____/_____/_____ **Date**

Name of contact person that will be available on (date of NAPT Annual Business meeting) to address any questions/concerns of the Resolution Committee or membership:

Name: _____
Day Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____