

2.1 Safe Travel Routes and Parking Lots

Resolution passed 1980; amended 2019

Whereas, Washington State PTA advocates for all children and youth to have the opportunity to travel safely to and from school and in and out of the school parking lot; and

Whereas, Washington state has the third fastest-growing traffic volumes of any state in the nation, growing at a rate of 3.4% annually across all roads; and

Whereas, Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an approach that promotes walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education; 10%–14% of car trips during morning rush hour are for school travel. SRTS initiatives improve safety by removing cars from the road and also increase levels of physical activity for students.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils advocate to ensure all children and youth have safe routes to and from school, accommodating all modes of travel such as walking, biking, scootering, driving, busing, etc., that include, but are not limited to:

- safe, visible, and adequately lit sidewalks, crosswalks, and walking paths in compliance with all ADA requirements
- street signage, signals, paint striping, safety devices, and traffic enforcement as needed
- parking lot designs, plans and procedures to safely accommodate buses, cars, and pedestrians; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils advocate for existing school facilities to regularly review their current routes to and from school and their parking lot designs, plans, and procedures and improve safety and remove potential dangers as needed; and that new and remodeled school facilities be designed and built with these safety concerns in mind; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils work actively with their local government involved in the urban planning of housing and business developments and the location of schools to help ensure safe routes to and from school areas; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA encourages its local PTAs and councils to research and pursue Safe Routes to School and Healthy Lifestyle grants in collaboration with their school districts and community agencies.