

2.16 Water Safety and Instruction

Resolution passed 2015

Whereas, National PTA and Washington State PTA purposes are to advocate for the health, safety, education, and welfare of children; and

Whereas, in Washington state there are over 169 major rivers, 113 major lakes, 60 major dams, and 237 canals, plus numerous public and private swimming pools. Washington state has the 8th highest number of hot tubs in the United States; and

Whereas, thirty-six percent of children aged 7-17 years, and 15% of adults in the United States, swim at least six times per year; and

Whereas, as of 2009, drowning is the third highest cause of death of youth 19 and under, only after motor vehicle deaths and suffocation – and the number one cause of death for children aged four and under, more than motor vehicle deaths; and

Whereas, drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death among children aged 1–4 years and is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death among children 5–9 years; and

Whereas, water safety in general, and swimming instruction specifically, provides a lifetime of benefits for individual health, and safety.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils promote education of parents, students, school personnel and communities regarding the risks associated with water and water activities and the benefits of water safety and swimming instruction; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA encourage the development of consistent, quality standards for water safety and swimming instruction and support policies and legislation to make such programs accessible to all students; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils encourage and support public school districts including curriculum in water safety and swimming skills to ensure all children receive such instruction and guidance; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils seek opportunities to join with other relevant coalitions, partnerships, organizations and associations in advancing water safety and swimming instruction for children and youth.