

2.18 Trauma Informed Care

Resolution passed 2017

Whereas, a positive school climate improves students' ability to learn and grow; and children should come to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing school environment, without the fear of bullying, hunger or violence; and

Whereas, an estimated 46 million American children will be affected by violence, crime, abuse or psychological trauma in a given year – referred to as an adverse childhood experience (ACE); and

Whereas, ACEs significantly harm a child's brain development; and are the root cause of most chronic and mental illnesses and future violence in their adult years; and

Whereas, research shows that childhood exposure to ACEs significantly impacts both mental and physical health through adulthood, and early research highlights the promise for family and community-based interventions to reverse the negative impact of ACEs.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will support public policy that advocates for all schools to be trauma-informed or sensitive schools; providing resources and supports so that all adults within the school community can respond to trauma and chronic stress, so that the school can provide evidence-based interventions and access to necessary services for students affected by ACEs; creating connected communities, positive school climates that keep students healthy and in school; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA supports continued efforts to research and promote evidence-based systemic prevention and intervention programs that enhance youth development, growth, and safety. Furthermore, Washington State PTA will continue to call attention to the importance of family engagement in the development and implementation of school policies, positive school climate, family-focused interventions for youth involved in the juvenile justice system and mental health services and delivery to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA urges state and local jurisdictions to seek a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of children exposed to violence and trauma.