

2.2 Child Identification Programs

Resolution passed 1984; amended 2019

Whereas, one of the purposes of Washington State PTA is “to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship”; and

Whereas, many children are never reported missing; there is no reliable way to determine the total number of children who are actually missing in the U.S.; and

Whereas, when a child is reported missing to law enforcement, federal law requires that child be entered into the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The NCIC’s Missing Person File contained 85,459 active missing person records as of 2018, with juveniles under the age of 18 accounting for 29,758 (34.8%) of the records and 38,561 (45.1%) of the records when juveniles are defined as under 21 years of age; and

Whereas, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) assisted law enforcement with more than 25,000 cases of missing children in 2018 with 92% being endangered runaways, 4% family abductions, 3% critically missing young adults ages 18-20, less than 1% nonfamily abductions, and 1% lost, injured or otherwise missing children. Of the runaways reported to NCMEC in 2018, one in seven were likely victims of child sex trafficking; and

Whereas, vital current information will be helpful to school administrations and law enforcement agencies in finding/identifying a missing child; and

Whereas, families may have incomplete or outdated records of their child’s vital statistics and other necessary identifying information.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will partner with programs and/or provide information to families encouraging healthy conversations about trusted adults and personal safety awareness for children; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils work with school administrations and law enforcement to promote child identification programs which include, but are not limited to:

- up-to-date child information including a written description with measurements and identifying markers
- current photos
- medically important information
- and other pertinent information.