

2.21 Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention and Survivor Supports

Resolution passed 2018

Whereas, Washington State PTA is a strong advocate for the well-being and education of all children; and

Whereas, national surveys of adults suggest that between 9-32% of women and 5-10% of men report that they were survivors of sexual abuse and/or assault during their childhood. Eighty percent of Washington state women's sexual assault experiences occurred prior to the age of 18; and

Whereas, underserved populations such as LGBTQ, Native Americans, and the developmentally disabled experience sexual assault rates up to at least twice that of the general population; and

Whereas, twenty percent or more of college-age students report being survivors of sexual harassment and sexual violence; and

Whereas, research further indicates that educational institutions are the most common location of peer sexual victimization; and

Whereas, sexual violence or sexual harassment have devastating effects on students by negatively impacting their emotional and physical well-being, and can become a barrier to equal and free access to public education; and

Whereas, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq., prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment or sexual violence) in any federally-funded education program or activity without, however, requiring prevention strategies or support services for victims; and

Whereas, WAC 392-410-140 allows local school boards to opt-out of including sex education curricula in their districts, and RCW 28A.300.475 lacks a requirement that adopted sex education curricula include discussions of consent, affirmative or otherwise.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils urge and support the strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, address the effects of, and prohibit sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils collaborate with school administrations, institutions of higher learning, and community partners to ensure that every school:

- Provides support services for survivors of sexual harassment and sexual violence; and
- Presents awareness and prevention programs that address sexual harassment and sexual violence affecting students; and
- Includes training on the responsibilities of educational institutions, as well as the rights of sexual violence and sexual harassment survivors under Title IX and other laws and regulations; and
- Promotes inclusive education about mutual respect and affirmative consent for students of all abilities, gender identities/expressions, and sexual orientations; and

Provides equitable and confidential reporting mechanisms for survivors of sexual harassment or violence and their families.