

2.22 Digital and Internet Safety

Resolution passed 2007; amended 2013; amended 2019 (formerly 14.4 Internet Safety)

Whereas, 95% of teens now report they have a smartphone or access to one. Between computers and mobile devices, children have more access to the internet than ever before with 45% of teens now saying they are online on a near-constant basis; and

Whereas, there are growing concerns about the impact of digital technologies, the internet, online gaming and social media on children’s emotional and physical well-being, particularly regarding fear, anxiety, and depression; and

Whereas, school districts must annually review their policy and procedures on electronic resources and internet safety, per RCW 28A.650.045, including the consideration of best practices, resources, and models for instruction in digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy, including methods to involve parents; and

Whereas, the dangers to youth on the internet and through wireless and other electronic communications may include access to inappropriate material, solicitation by sexual predators, sexual or racial harassment, cyberstalking, cyberbullying, and identity theft.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will work with school districts, educators, families, students, partners and the community to heighten technological awareness and skills to promote responsible, safe and ethical use of the internet, wireless and other electronic resources; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will advocate for digital and internet safety model policies and restorative justice programs for students; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will work with internet providers, lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, and communications companies in developing, implementing and enforcing resources and programs that will ensure the safety of youth when using the internet, wireless, and other electronic communication devices and limit the accessibility to inappropriate materials by minors.