WSPTA recognizes that climate change is an immediate health crisis for all children and youth. We have the moral responsibility to act now to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Background

- Children are more vulnerable to climate change because their immune systems, lungs and bodies are still developing. They have a higher metabolism and play outside where there are more dangerous pathogens. Infants and high school athletes are at high risk to extreme heat.\(^{(1)(2)(image\,2)}\)

- During the heatwave of 2021, Washington reached our highest recorded temperature of 120°F!
- Some families are more impacted by “fire, flood, drought, or extreme heat because of where they live or work. How well a family or community bounces back from climate events can be affected by poverty, language barriers, and access to healthcare and insurance.” - UW Climate Impacts Group\(^{(3)(image\,4)}\)

“Extreme heat days” are defined as June, July, and August days from 2007 to 2016 on which the maximum temperature at a given weather station fell within the top 10 percent of readings made at that station from 1961 to 1990. Nine extreme heat days per summer, on average, would be expected if temperatures were not increasing over time.” - Natural Resources Defense Council\(^{(4)}\)

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For More Information

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For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website.
Proposed Solutions

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that build a socially, economically, and environmentally resilient world for children and youth by:

- Providing education, funding, planning, and implementation resources to schools and communities to promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Equitably mitigating adverse climate change impacts.
- Declaring climate change a public health crisis in order to implement policies and solutions that strengthen public health and health care infrastructure, direct funding, and raise awareness about the health impacts of climate change.

Citations


