

## 11.33 Ensuring Access to Healthcare

*Resolution passed 2026*

**Whereas**, it is critical that children have their essential health needs met within the setting of their local community in order to thrive in school and in life;

**Whereas**, the essential health needs of a child are defined to include all aspects of physical, mental, oral, and vision care;

**Whereas**, universal coverage will not mean universal access to care unless health reform also includes clear steps to end non-financial barriers to care such as language, culture, geography, housing insecurity, and health conditions;

**Whereas**, access to scientifically rigorous, evidence-based preventions and treatments, including vaccines, leads to fewer attendance and academic disruptions due to preventable illness, and protects children and community members from severe illness that may result in permanent disability or death;

**Whereas**, access to affordable basic health care needs to proving difficult in underserved communities, both urban and rural, throughout the state;

**Whereas**, marginalized communities and underserved populations routinely bear disproportionate impacts resulting from funding and service reductions in the areas of health and human services;

**Whereas**, public schools are an integral part of every community in Washington state and often serve as hubs for social connection and access to family resources and even healthcare;

**Whereas**, the shortage of healthcare workers and lack of widespread reliable high-speed internet access represents a structural barrier that negatively impacts the ability of children and families to access healthcare in every county in Washington state;

**Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall advocate at the local, state, and federal levels that all Washington children and families have consistent and affordable access within their local communities to essential health services including physical, mental and behavioral, oral, and vision care through any means including, but not limited to, universal health care; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall advocate for state and federal efforts that increase the healthcare workforce through methods including, but not limited to:

- Increasing access to education and training in healthcare disciplines;
- Creating incentives to attract and retain the healthcare workforce in shortage areas;
- Enacting and streamlining policies that incentivize and allow healthcare providers from outside the state of Washington to practice in Washington state;

- Expanding health insurance requirements to include coverage for evidence-based treatments prescribed by practitioners; and be it further

**Resolved,** that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall advocate for policies promoting school sites as access points for healthcare delivery including but not limited to screenings, vaccinations, telehealth, mobile clinics, and community-based care; and be it further

**Resolved,** that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall advocate for local, state, and federal policies that provide children with access to and insurance coverage for the full evidence-based vaccination schedule, following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations (18), while recognizing exemptions for medical and religious reasons, and require certification of immunizations to prevent communicable diseases as a condition of entry into schools, preschools, and childcare facilities.