



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL SAFETY

Adopted July 12, 2018

WHEREAS, the Washington State Board of Education supports the right of all students and staff to attend safe schools that ensure both physical and emotional safety, and that safe schools create the conditions necessary to foster academic achievement and the health of Washington's K-12 system; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning are not distracted; disruptions are minimized; drugs, violence, bullying and fear are not present; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behavior are clearly communicated and standards of behavior are maintained; and consequences for infractions are consistently and fairly applied; and

WHEREAS, loss of life from violence, injury, substance abuse, and suicide is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Board of Education has consistently advocated for additional counseling and mental health staff for our schools; and has passed a resolution to end bullying; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Board of Education supports local schools, districts and communities in developing, implementing, and monitoring policies, practices, and programs to address the prevention, intervention and elimination of school violence; and

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.320.125 requires each school district and private school to develop their own individual comprehensive safe school plans and consider guidance provided by the superintendent of public instruction, including the comprehensive school safety checklist and the model comprehensive safe school plans that include prevention, intervention, all hazard/crisis response, and post-crisis recovery when developing their own plans;

WHEREAS the SBE affirms the need for every child in Washington to have a positive relationship with a consistent, competent, and caring adult.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Board of Education urges the State Legislature and Congress to take action to reduce the availability of weapons to children and those who would harm them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education urges the state of Washington to invest in, promote, and support comprehensive, coordinated, and collaborative strategies to prevent drug use, bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools so that all

students have the opportunity to attend school, engage in the classroom, and achieve academic success for their future well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education values the whole child, relationships, and mental health.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education will actively seek student voice, listen to that voice, and value it by deliberately amplifying it in all of our school safety policy discussions.