

1 POSITION STATEMENT

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3 SUBJECT: Bullying and Harassment

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5 Bullying is defined by the US Department of Education as unwanted, aggressive behavior that
6 involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Many children are taught that it is a sign of
7 weakness to ask for help, and frequently fail to tell anyone when they are being bullied for fear
8 of appearing weak. Bullying is not simply a “part of growing up.” It is a destructive issue that
9 can have serious effects on a young person’s physical and mental health. Bullying is a
10 worldwide problem that can have negative consequences for the general school climate and for
11 the rights of students to learn in a safe environment without fear. The Tennessee PTA Board of
12 Managers realize that:

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14 thousands of children miss school every day in the United States for fear of being
15 bullied,

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17 and school-related bullying has led to depression and poor school performance in many
18 children,

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20 and many suicides by children have been linked to prolonged bullying,

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22 and many school shootings have revenge against bullies as a major motive,

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24 and that parents are often unaware of the bullying problem and talk about it with their
25 children only to a limited extent.

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27 Tennessee PTA supports policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention, and
28 the elimination of bullying. Tennessee PTA urges its local units and councils to work with
29 school and district administrators to ensure that Tennessee schools are places where all
30 students are safe from harassment, bullying and/or physical, verbal, or emotional abuse for any
31 reason, including, but not limited to, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical/emotional/mental
32 impairment, eating disorder, sexual orientation, disfigurement, or other distinguishing
33 characteristics. Tennessee PTA will work with government agencies and nonprofits to help
34 educate parents, students, and school personnel to bring about a change in culture towards
35 bullying behavior.

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47 Approved by Tennessee PTA Board of Managers 11/6/2016

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