

Bullying and Harassment

- WHEREAS,** Bullying is defined by the US Department of Education as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance; and
- WHEREAS,** Many children are taught that it is a sign of weakness to ask for help, and frequently fail to tell anyone when they are being bullied for fear of appearing weak; and
- WHEREAS,** Bullying is a worldwide problem that can have negative consequences for the general school climate and for the rights of students to learn in a safe environment without fear; and
- WHEREAS,** Bullying is not simply a "part of growing up." It is a destructive issue that can have serious effects on a young person's physical and mental health; and
- WHEREAS,** Thousands of children miss school every day in the United States for fear of being bullied, and school-related bullying has led to depression and poor school performance in many children; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent organizations recommend the support of policies and programs that addresses the prevention, intervention, and the elimination of bullying; and be it further
- RESOLVED** That the Tennessee PTA urges its constituent organizations to work with school and district administrators to ensure that Tennessee schools are places where all students are safe from harassment, bullying and/or physical, verbal, or emotional abuse for any reason, including but not limited to, race, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical/emotional/mental impairment, eating disorder, sexual orientation, disfigurement, or other distinguishing characteristics; and be it further
- RESOLVED** That the Tennessee PTA and its constituent organizations will work with government agencies and nonprofits to help educate parents, students, and school personnel to bring about a change in culture towards bullying behavior.