

BULLYING

- 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, Students learn to care about others when they feel cared about themselves; and
- WHEREAS, Approximately 15% of school children are regularly either victims or initiators of bullying behavior; and
- WHEREAS, Approximately 8% of school students miss one day of school each month because they are afraid to attend; and
- WHEREAS, 60% of 6th to 9th grade bullies have at least one criminal conviction by age 24; and
- WHEREAS, Consequences to victims of bullies can be short-term and long-term; and
- WHEREAS, Parents are often unaware of the bullying problem and talk about it with their children only to a limited extent; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage local units to collect data to assess the extent of the bullying problem; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies participate in a parental awareness campaign; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage local units to work with the school administration to establish a school climate that clearly and emphatically disapproves of bullying; and be it further
- Resolved, That each local unit work with the school administration to develop a school program in compliance with district policies, designed by the entire school community, including parents, teachers, students, professional staff, custodial staff and others, that includes a list of rules, posted in each classroom, against bullying to create a school climate where bullying is not tolerated; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support funding and legislation for elementary school counselors that can provide early intervention and prevention of bullying; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies continue to educate parents and school personnel on the importance of positive feedback children receive at home and in school; and be it further
- Resolved, That the focus of discipline practices for bullying should emphasize restitution and positive practice rather than expulsion and humiliation.