

Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention and Survivor Supports
A RESOLUTION by the Seattle Council PTSA

A resolution of the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (SCPTSA) to declare and demand that;

WHEREAS, Parent Teacher Associations (PTA, PTSA) are a voice for every student and advocates for the well-being and education of all children; and

WHEREAS, SCPTSA's purpose is to make every child's and youth's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children; and

WHEREAS, SCPTSA represents over 80 PTAs and PTSAs in Seattle Public Schools, with over 50,000 students across the Seattle Public School District; and

WHEREAS, national data shows 1 in 4 girls under the age of 18, and 1 in 14 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse; 43% of female survivors of sexual assault were 17 years and under at the time of their assault; females ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of sexual violence or attempted sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, underserved populations such as LGBTQIA+, Native, and developmentally disabled experience sexual assault rates up to at least twice that of the general population; and

WHEREAS, research further indicates that educational institutions are the most common location of peer sexual victimization; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence or sexual harassment have devastating effects on students by negatively impacting their emotional and physical well-being, and can become a barrier to equal and free access to public education; and

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq., prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including sexual harassment or sexual violence) in any federally funded education program or activity without, however, requiring retention strategies or support services for victims; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 3208 commits Seattle Public Schools (District) to a positive and productive education and work environment free from discrimination, including sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS, the 2020-2021 the Seattle School Board prioritized Restorative Justice practices for students to change culture, repair harm, and transform student to student and student to staff relationships; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Seattle Council PTSA board and membership demands and holds itself and its members accountable for the centralization of students, student advocacy, and student voice to be its core value, purpose, and action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Seattle Council PTSA board and membership demand Seattle Public Schools drastically and urgently update all policies regarding sexual assault and safety of students to reflect the demands of Seattle Public Schools students as follows:

1. Create a policy outlining that if a student is undergoing an active investigation for sexual assault or is convicted of sexual assault or rape, that they lose the privilege to participate in school-run extracurricular activities
2. Training for all SPS mandatory reporters on how to appropriately handle when a student reports a sexual assault or harassment claim
3. Improved FLASH education regarding sexual assault and consent
4. Sexual Assault specialized Therapists in every SPS high school; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Seattle Council PTSA board and membership demand Seattle Public Schools drastically and urgently update all policies regarding sexual assault and safety of students to reflect survivor-centered, restorative justice promising practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Seattle Council PTSA board and membership demand Seattle Public Schools support the strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, address the effects of, and prohibit sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students.

ADOPTED by Seattle Council PTSA at a regular and open general membership meeting thereof, held **December 16, 2021**.