

Draft School Safety Resolution

Recent events have placed school safety in the national and state spotlight, underscoring the importance of schools and communities engaged in addressing the conditions of children. In an era of limited resources, collaboration with local law enforcement and other government agencies will be required to maintain safe schools.

CSBA offers the following sample resolution as a tool that you can use to help assure your community of the priority your district places on student and staff safety and your advocacy efforts to encourage the Legislature to provide the necessary resources to increase the number of trained adults on campus, the security of school facilities and collaboration with local agencies.

Embellish this template resolution with specific activities and examples of the way your district is working to sustain school safety as a priority (i.e.: Safe Routes to School, Parent education about drug and gang violence, or professional development for staff regarding school safety.)

For additional background and resources on the school safety issue, please see the CSBA website at: <http://www.csba.org/en/EducationIssues/EducationIssues/Safety.aspx>

Please send adopted resolutions to CSBA at csba@csba.org.

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Sample Board Resolution on School Safety

WHEREAS, (insert name of district and/or COE) supports the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment; and

WHEREAS, providing a safe school environment that ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students and staff creates the conditions necessary to foster academic achievement; 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, even though the loss of life is unacceptable and school shootings are a tragedy that affect the whole society, they remain a very small percent of the overall homicide rate of school-aged children; and

WHEREAS, student injury and death are statistically much greater from drug abuse, child abuse, suicide, bullying, and auto accidents; and

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments requires a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies where all institutions, organizations and individuals must accept responsibility for their critical roles and collaborate to establish a positive environment for teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, the California School Boards Association supports local schools, districts and communities in developing implementing and monitoring policies and programs to address the prevention, intervention and elimination of school violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, (insert name of district and/or COE) has completed and holds regular drills as prescribed in both school site and district emergency plans that involve all school district personnel, law enforcement, fire and medical rescue personnel, emergency management personnel and others essential to resolving any potential crisis that might occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, (insert name of district and/or COE) reviews school site discipline rules and procedures to ensure they are appropriately enforced and address student behavior and school safety issues. Student handbooks that explain codes of conduct, unacceptable behavior and disciplinary consequences are given to all students and parents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, (insert name of district and/or COE) will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (insert name of district and/or COE) urges the state of California 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.