

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

“SCHOOL SAFETY”

WHEREAS, the California School Board Association requested a resolution on student safety to be passed by the Orange County Board of Education, based on the axiom **that** public schools support student academic achievement, and provide a foundation of personal academic growth, mental and physical health; and

WHEREAS, school safety is a prerequisite for achieving high levels of academic and social growth; and

WHEREAS, physical violence and emotional harassment alienates students from their peers and their academic and social environment, ultimately leaving a negative impact upon the school learning environment; and

WHEREAS, in its May 2017 study, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2016*, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) found bullying, fighting, hate crime of intimidation, violent victimization, teacher victimization, students thefts, and illegal substance abuse as student safety issues in the USA; and

WHEREAS, in the same study, 16 percent of high school students reported carrying a weapon at any point during the previous 30 days and 4 percent reported carrying a weapon on campus during the previous 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the national tragedy of school shootings in the USA is a national issue requiring thoughtful response to reduce gun violence and school shootings; and

WHEREAS, gun violence on school campuses, while relatively rare, represents an unacceptable finding in the NEEC report in the American consciousness and to the lives of students, teachers and staff; and

WHEREAS, exposure to physical and emotional trauma can adversely affect a child's long term emotional and mental health ; and

WHEREAS, supports the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, especially life-threatening forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, all students, regardless of background, merit access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning can flourish; disruptions are minimized; violence, bullying and fear are absent; 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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has completed and holds regular drills as prescribed in both school site and district emergency plans and that said plans involve all school district personnel, law enforcement, fire and medical rescue personnel, emergency management personnel and others essential to preventing, mitigating or resolving any potential crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reviews school site discipline rules and procedures to ensure they are appropriately enforced and that student handbooks explaining codes of conduct, unacceptable behavior and disciplinary consequences are given to all students, parents and caregivers. The OCDE further improves upon, implements, and monitors policies and programs that support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Orange County Department of Education continues to work with a spectrum of local community stakeholders, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to take any threats of school violence seriously; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that urges the state of California and the United States Congress to implement commonsense measures consistent with the US Constitution and laws of our country that prioritize student safety and environments where all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

AYES: 5

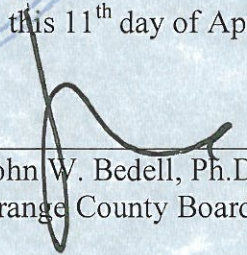
NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, **John W. Bedell, Ph.D.**, President to the Board of Education of Orange County, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 11th day of April 2018.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of April 2018.



John W. Bedell, Ph.D., President
Orange County Board of Education