

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1986

Reviewed by Board of Managers April 2015

- WHEREAS, The California State PTA is concerned with all children and their safety; and
- WHEREAS, The scientific community believes there is a strong probability California will have a major earthquake within the next thirty years; and
- WHEREAS, The California Education Code was amended in 1984 to require public and private schools to establish earthquake emergency procedures and to grant the use of school buildings, grounds and equipment to public agencies during disasters; and
- WHEREAS, Many areas in California have had chemical spills, airplane crashes, pipeline leaks and explosions, peacetime bomb threats, fires or disasters due to adverse weather conditions; and
- WHEREAS, Civil and individual disturbances occur in the vicinity of a school; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA intensify efforts to inform its members about personal and public disaster preparedness; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA inform its units, councils and districts of the Education Code requirements to establish earthquake emergency procedure systems in public and private school buildings; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to work with their schools and communities to formulate and implement comprehensive disaster preparedness plans as soon as possible, the plans to be updated on an ongoing basis.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

In 1984, with the passage of AB 2786 Katz, schools were mandated to include earthquake safety drills in their existing disaster preparedness planning efforts. California State PTA has had few resources to assist our constituent bodies as they work with their schools and communities to develop disaster preparedness plans. Frequently PTAs are asked to purchase needed supplies, but are not involved in the planning process. PTA is not a fund-raising organization. PTA's role should be in the areas of planning and community involvement.

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Disaster Preparedness – continued

Parents should be involved in the development and implementation of their school disaster preparedness plan. PTA can be the leader in informing students and parents about the plan at their school and what will happen to the children should a disaster occur during school hours.

PTAs can and should work with other community groups to increase awareness of the schools' responsibilities in case of a disaster and to solicit community cooperation in both the planning and implementation stages, including the donation of supplies and/or funds to purchase supplies.

PTAs can and should work with other community groups to increase public awareness of the importance of home planning for disaster including what happens if family members are separated.

The California State PTA should develop information which will assist our constituent organizations to assume a leadership role in disaster preparedness planning in both the school and community, as well as in efforts to enhance community awareness of the need for planning for disaster.