

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 1990
Reviewed by Board of Managers January 2010

- WHEREAS, Traffic safety statistics show that children are at high risk of being killed or injured while walking to and from school; and
- WHEREAS, Unsafe traffic conditions or hazards exist in many school communities which prevent children from walking to and from school safely; and
- WHEREAS, Traffic safety programs and committees exist to help reduce and prevent the endangerment of children as pedestrians; and
- WHEREAS, Parents have a responsibility to report to the appropriate school officials community needs or concerns as they relate to school district programs and policies; and
- WHEREAS, The school board has the ultimate responsibility to direct district staff to implement and monitor programs that are deemed necessary to the education, safety and well-being of the students; and
- WHEREAS, The PTA has long encouraged local PTA school safety committees to work with school districts and law enforcement agencies; and
- WHEREAS, PTA believes in the importance of educating parents as well as students on such issues as pedestrian safety; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA work with the California School Boards Association and the Association of California School Administrators for the adoption of a policy providing for the creation and implementation of curriculum that will emphasize pedestrian and traffic safety for students; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to work with their respective school districts to implement and monitor on-going education programs that emphasize pedestrian safety for students; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA encourage its units, councils and districts to initiate and promote on-going programs to educate parents and community members, as well as students, about pedestrian safety which includes safe routes to and from school; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA seek and support legislation that would require the State Department of Education to develop and provide guidelines to school districts for teaching pedestrian safety; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at the 1990 National PTA Convention.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

In the United States motor vehicles kill about 8,000 pedestrians a year. An examination of California traffic-related death and injury statistics in 1988 revealed that 239 children, age 5-14, were killed in traffic-related deaths and an additional 27,605 suffered injuries. Statistics in that same year clearly show that 26% of all pedestrian deaths and injuries as well as 36% of all bicycle-related deaths and injuries involved school-age children.

Throughout the nation, and especially in California, neighborhoods and communities are experiencing change. In areas that were once rural it is not uncommon for large developments of new homes to seemingly spring up over night. Tied to these same housing projects and related developments are significant changes in traffic conditions that are dramatized by the death and injury statistics linked to school-age children. The ultimate tragedy is that traffic accidents are the leading cause of death and injury for school-age children, far outranking deaths and injuries caused by drowning, fire, birth defects and cancer.