

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SAFETY STANDARDS

Adopted by Convention Delegates April 1996
 Reviewed and deemed relevant November 2017

- WHEREAS,** Since its inception PTA has been concerned about the safety of children and youth and continues to advocate for safe, healthy environmental conditions in the schools and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** According to *Playing it Safe: A Second Nationwide Safety Survey of Public Playgrounds*, U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the Consumer Federation of America, May 1994, “nearly 170,000 [children] were injured seriously enough to require emergency room treatment in 1992,” and according to the same reference, “tragically, an average of 17 children die each year playing on playgrounds;” and
- WHEREAS,** According to excerpts from the California Health and Safety Code (Chapter 1163, Section 2 of the Statutes of 1990) the proper design, installation, inspection, maintenance (including flooring and fall zones) and supervision of playgrounds would prevent many costly injuries and deaths in California; and
- WHEREAS,** The California Health and Safety Code (Chapter 4.5, Playground Safety) states that “those regulations...shall, at a minimum, impose guidelines and criteria which shall be at least as protective as the guidelines in the Handbook for Public Playground Safety produced by the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission...;” now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts and their PTA safety committees to work in cooperation with their respective local school and school district safety committees to develop, maintain and monitor playground equipment safety standards (including flooring and fall zones) as required by the California Health and Safety Code and as recommended by the Handbook for Public Safety by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA urge its units, councils and districts to conduct playground safety awareness campaigns (e.g., speakers, programs, playground safety tips, etc.) for parents, school staff, students and communities using information from federal, state and local resources; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA submit this resolution to the National PTA for consideration at its convention.

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BACKGROUND SUMMARY

By 1992 California had fallen behind other states and the federal government in providing guidelines and other support for safe playgrounds which develop skill and confidence in children without posing undue risks.

PTA, as advocates for the health and safety of children and youth, is in an ideal position to conduct a playground equipment safety awareness campaign. According to the California Health and Safety Code, encouraging playground safety by requiring the proper design, installation, inspection, maintenance and supervision of playgrounds would prevent many injuries and deaths. PTAs working in cooperation with their school districts to see that the State Health and Safety Code requirements for playground equipment safety are observed exemplifies teamwork at its best.

Each year, about 170,000 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms nationwide for playground equipment-related injuries; approximately 17 children die each year as a result of playground equipment-related incidents. Most of the injuries result from falls. Adverse and dangerous conditions in schools and communities place our children at risk, and we must advocate for the best possible conditions to ensure their safety and protection.