

**Berkeley Unified School District
Board of Education**

Resolution 18-020 In Support of School Safety

WHEREAS, our public schools are charged not only with supporting student achievement, but also providing a foundation for mental and physical health, personal growth and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, student safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development; and

WHEREAS, violence and harassment can not only alienate students from their peers and their environment, thereby impeding learning but also cause injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, in its May 2017 study, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2016*, the National Center for Education Statistics found that 21 percent of students ages 12 to 18 said they were bullied at schools 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 study also noted that 4 percent of students had access to a loaded gun without adult permission, either at school or away from school, during the school year; and

WHEREAS, the horrific prospect of school shootings made an indelible impression on the national consciousness with the Columbine massacre of 1999; and

WHEREAS, more than 150,000 Americans have experienced a shooting on campus since the Columbine tragedy and hundreds of lives have been lost as a result; and

WHEREAS, gun violence in schools occurs in America with a frequency and severity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, exposure to trauma can adversely affect a child's health for the rest of their life, and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District 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, deserve access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching 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

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislation level;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing board of Berkeley Unified School District 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 Berkeley Unified School District reviews school site discipline rules and procedures to ensure they are appropriately enforced and that student handbooks are given to all students, parents and caregivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Berkeley Unified School District will continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to take any threats of violence seriously and 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 Berkeley Unified School District urges the state of California and the United States Congress to invest in wraparound services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, nurses and psychologists that support students' mental, physical and emotional health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Berkeley Unified School District asks the United States Congress to pass specific legislation that reduces the risk and severity of gun violence by the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Berkeley Unified School District urges the state of California and the United States Congress to implement commonsense measures that prioritize student safety and environments where all students have to opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Berkeley Unified School District, this 14th day of March 2018 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Beatriz Leyva-Cutler, Clerk
Board of Education