

Resolution 11.14.02

Resolution on Bullying of Children

Whereas, one-third of U.S. students reported that they had experienced bullying, either as a victim or as a perpetrator (15,686 students in grades six to 10 surveyed).¹

Whereas, approximately 160,000 children stay home from school every day because they are afraid of being bullied.²

Whereas, bullying is a complex and abusive behavior, including physical, verbal, emotional and sexual elements.³

Whereas, victims of bullying often suffer from depression, low self-esteem, insecurity, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and long-term academic consequences.⁴

Whereas, a recent U.S. Secret Service study indicates that two-thirds of attackers in school shootings felt bullied, threatened or injured by others.⁵

Whereas, research indicates that 60 percent of those characterized as bullies in grades six to nine had at least one criminal conviction by age 24.⁶

Whereas, chronic bullies tend to continue their behavior into adulthood, therefore, negatively influencing their ability to develop and maintain positive relationships.⁷

Therefore, be it resolved, that PCA America supports:

Encouraging all schools to create and implement an antibullying policy to promote a safe learning environment for all children.

Research leading to further understanding of the roots of bullying behaviors and to effective strategies for prevention and intervention.

Collaboration with federal, state, organizational and community efforts to address bullying.

Promotion of services and materials for parents, schools, educators, child advocates and children to ensure healthy learning environments and opportunities for children of all ages to develop without fear of aggression and/or cruelty.

¹ Nansel, T et al. (2001). "Bullying Behaviors among U.S. Youth: Prevalence and Association with Psychosocial Adjustment." *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

² Vail, Kathleen. "Words That Wound." *The American School Board Journal* (September 1999): 37-40.

³ Fried, SuEllen and Fried, Paula. "Bullies & Victims, Helping Children through the Schoolyard Battlefield."

⁴ Nansel, T et al. "Bullying Behaviors among U.S. Youth: Prevalence and Association with Psychosocial Adjustment." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 286, 16 (April 25, 2001).

⁵ Portner, Jessica. "Gunman in School Attacks Sought Revenge, Revealed Plans." *Education Week* Oct. 25, 2000. Available online at: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/story.cfm?slug=08threat.h20>

⁶ Olweus, D. (1993). *Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do.* Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

⁷ Oliver, R, Hoover, JH and Hazler, R (1994). "The Perceived Roles of Bullying in Small-Town Midwestern Schools." *Journal of Counseling and Development* 72 (4), 416-419.