

## RESPONSE TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AFFECTING STUDENTS

- Whereas, Research shows that even though vast underreporting occurs, over 40% of middle and high school students are victims of sexual violence or sexual harassment. Also, 20% of college women will be victims of attempted or actual sexual assault as will 6% of college men, and
- Whereas, Research indicates that educational institutions are the most common location of peer sexual victimization, and sexual violence or sexual harassment have devastating effects on students which negatively impact their emotional and physical well-being, depriving them of equal and free access to an education, and
- Whereas, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq., prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex includes sexual harassment or sexual violence, however it is limited only to federally funded institutions and activities and while it requires recipients of federal funding to: disseminate a notice of nondiscrimination; designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX; and adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee sex discrimination complaints, it does not require prevention strategies or support services for victims, and
- Whereas, Oversight and implementation of Title IX within federally funded education institutions is the responsibility of the U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR). To this end OCR has drafted guidance that urges schools to “take immediate action” to eliminate sexual harassment or sexual violence, “prevent its recurrence, and address its effects”, now therefore be it
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations urge and support compliance with and strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, prohibit, and address the effects of sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students and be it further.
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations encourage and collaborate with school administrations and community partners to ensure that every school provides support services for victims and presents awareness and prevention programs that address sexual harassment and sexual violence affecting students, including the responsibilities of educational institutions and the rights of sexual violence and sexual harassment victims under Title IX and other laws.
- Adopted: by the 2014 Board of Directors