

18.49 Inclusive and Historically Accurate Standards, Curricula, and Practices

Resolution passed 2024

Whereas, Washington state is rapidly becoming more diverse, but has seen an increase in hate crimes and violence against historically marginalized groups: In the last 10 years, hate crimes, two-thirds of which are based on race or ethnicity, have doubled; and

Whereas, non-white students now make up the majority in Washington K-12 public schools (4), and the incidence of secondary students (8th, 10, and 12th graders) reporting that they have been bullied, harassed, or intimidated in the previous 30 days due to their race, ethnicity or national origin has doubled in the last three years; and

Whereas, there are short- and long-term impacts of bullying and hate-based violence on individuals and communities, including worse academic outcomes and a wide range of mental health issues, such as increased depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders; and


Whereas, education is the most recommended solution by national surveys and studies in combating bullying and violence against marginalized groups; and

Whereas, research shows that using historically accurate curricula that are inclusive of marginalized groups help address lack of representation or misrepresentation; and that teaching about diversity, privilege, and systemic inequity, leads to positive changes in students' attitudes and values; and

Whereas, culturally responsive and racially inclusive curricula and teaching practices benefit *all* students, providing global academic benefits, such as increased academic engagement and attendance rates, improved critical thinking, and higher test scores, and graduation rates; and

Whereas, PTA stands firmly against racism in all forms, denounces all racial violence in our country and advocates for all students—including students from historically marginalized populations—to have a quality, equitable education in a safe, supportive and inclusive school. Classrooms that celebrate diverse histories and cultures break down existing barriers and create supportive and inclusive schools that encourage students to grow and learn in the safest and most empowering spaces possible. We know that every student, regardless of their race, religion, ability or socioeconomic status—can reach their full potential when the school environment is one in which they feel truly valued; and

Whereas, PTA is committed to the creation of diverse and inclusive learning standards and curricula, with the necessary accompanying professional development, that support culturally and linguistically-responsive teaching and learning so that the history and experience of all students—including but not limited to African American, Latino(a), Native American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific



Islanders (AANHPI), LGBTQ+, and historically targeted and marginalized groups—is accurately represented and taught.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will advocate at all levels to support learning standards, curricula, and teaching methods and practices that are inclusive, culturally relevant, historically accurate, age- and developmentally appropriate and that include the histories, contributions, and perspectives of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils shall spread the awareness of and support efforts toward inclusive instruction, curricula, and teaching methods and practices as a means to combating bullying, hate, and violence, including towards historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.