

WHEREAS, injuries are the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in America;¹
WHEREAS, injuries result in 3.2 billion dollars in medical spending and impacts children's health, quality of life, and future earning potential;¹
WHEREAS, youth violence is a complex issue requiring multiple multifaceted interventions;¹
WHEREAS, each year, 3.7 million students suffer severe injury at school;¹
WHEREAS, annually one in 14 students suffers a medically attended or temporarily disabling injury resulting in 3.2 billion dollars in medical spending;¹
WHEREAS, one in ten adolescents have contemplated suicide;²
WHEREAS, 8.5 percent of high school students carried a weapon into school;²
WHEREAS, firearms are the cause of 75 percent of violent deaths occurring at school;³
WHEREAS, of the number of children that are hospitalized due to injury that occurs at school, approximately 90 percent are due to unintentional injuries and 10 percent are due to violence;²
WHEREAS, smoke detectors, bicycle helmets, safety belts, gun locks, child safety seats, protective sports equipment, comprehensive injury prevention curricula, local and state level policies and resolutions are all proven injury prevention strategies;
WHEREAS, school environments provide an excellent opportunity to incorporate research-based educational behavioral strategies designed to develop positive decision-making skills in children;
WHEREAS, children should have opportunities to learn negotiation skills, conflict resolution and anger management; and
WHEREAS, the American School Health Association is committed to promoting the health and safety of all young Americans;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association support the continued development and implementation of injury prevention education for all students in schools across America in conjunction with strategies that encompass environmental and regulatory approaches;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that ASHA support a balanced approach to the implementation of proven strategies that recognize the magnitude of the problem of unintentional injuries; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association be committed to improving collaboration with other national organizations, federal agencies and local communities on this critical issue.

References

1. Miller TR, Spicer RS. How safe are our schools? *AM J PUB HLTH*; 1998;88(3):413-418.
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3. Kachur SP, Stennies GM, Powell KE, Modzelski W, Stephens R, Murphy R, Kresnow M, Sleet D, Lowry R. School-associated violent deaths in the United States, 1992-1994. *J Amer Med Assn*; 1996; 275(22):1729-1733.

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