

WHEREAS, alcohol use continues at high proportions among American youth younger than age 21;¹

WHEREAS, alcohol consumption contributes to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality² including traffic crashes,³ sexually transmitted diseases,⁴ and academic underachievement;⁵

WHEREAS, alcohol consumption serves as a primary pathway to the initiation of illicit drug use;⁶ and

WHEREAS, youth are exposed to glamorized alcohol use in advertising;⁷

WHEREAS, efforts to reduce underage drinking require participation at the national, state, local and community levels by those who are in positions to affect youth decisions;⁸

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has recommended that community-based programs and strategies aimed at preventing underage drinking be implemented by government entities, public health interest groups and alcohol beverage companies and trade associations;⁹

WHEREAS, coordinated school health programs serve in the promotion of social, emotional and academic learning of youth.¹⁰

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association supports:

- 1) providing prevention education within the confines of a comprehensive health education curriculum.
- 2) development of School Health Councils and/or Community Health Councils to address the issue of underage alcohol use and access to the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the American School Health Association calls on its members to:

- 1) assist local government officials, health service agencies and other community groups to comprehensively assess youth access to alcohol in their communities.
- 2) support the strengthening of policies aimed at restricting underage youth's access to alcohol and alcohol marketing.

References

1. Pemberton MR, Colliver JD, Robbins TM, Gfroerer JC. *Underage Alcohol Use: Findings from the 2002-2006 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health*. (DHHS Publication No. SMA 08-4333, Analytic Series A-30). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies; 2008
2. Miller TR, Levy DT, Spicer RS, Dexter M. Societal costs of underage drinking. *Journal of*

