

Lifesaving Training and Devices

WHEREAS, Students may experience life threatening situations in schools such as choking, drug overdose, and injuries. One leading cause of children's and teen's accidental death is choking. At least one child dies from choking on food every five days in the U.S, and more than 12,000 children are taken to the hospital emergency room each year for food-choking injuries; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Medical Examiners Commission reported almost 500 deaths of people aged 0 - 25 years old were related to opioids for a six month period from January to June 2021. Furthermore, of the deaths related to fentanyl, 95% were accidental. In the school year 2020-2021 there were over 5,000 reported incidents of students' drug possession in schools; and

WHEREAS, Over 20% of high school students in Florida reported being in a fight in 2019. In the 2020-2021 school year, there were almost 9,000 fighting incidents reported in Florida schools; and

WHEREAS, We recognize a school employee is often the only adult present with a group of children during the school day, and immediate attention from bystanders is critical during all emergency situations. Choking, bleeding, not breathing, lack of pulse, overdoses, and other emergencies can become life-threatening prior to the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS); and

WHEREAS, Bystanders need training, practice, and access to quickly and appropriately perform life-saving techniques and use life-saving devices. With this, bystanders are more likely to render first aid for emergency situations; the efficacy increases when proper life-saving devices and materials are available; and

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations advocate for schools to fund and expand their life saving trainings beyond the use of CPR and AEDs to include all school staff and students (with parents' permission) throughout K-12 education to be trained on emergency interventions such as choking relief, bleed kits, and overdose relief; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations advocate for the funding and placement of fully stocked first aid kits and life saving devices in readily accessible locations throughout schools and school properties. The kits should also include simple pictorial and written directions for these devices and life saving techniques, e.g. choking relief; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations facilitate trainings regarding life saving techniques and devices for stakeholders and community members.

Rationale

Each year children die of choking, cardiac arrest, bleeding, and overdoses. Immediate action by trained people reduces the incidence of death or severity of injury from these events. Immediate access to life saving devices and materials such as bleed kits, overdose reversal kits, and fully stocked first aid kits also contribute to successful recoveries.

Since children spend a large portion of their time in schools, the school community needs to be prepared for emergencies. Often students are in view of just one adult during their time at school. Thus, the training of all adults on a school campus and children can increase the chances of positive outcomes since a trained person is more likely to be available in an emergency. Training should encompass techniques to respond to first aid emergencies, e.g. choking, bleeding, breathing problems, cardiac arrest, and drug overdose.

We must do all we can to ensure that our students' lives are not endangered. We need to expand life saving trainings to include students, parents, community members, and staff and enable easy access to life saving devices.

Sources

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Whereas 2 Overdoses

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Whereas 3 Violence in Schools

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Whereas 4 **Children are often with only one adult**

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