

Laguna Beach Unified School District

Resolution No. 18-01 School Safety

WHEREAS, in its May 2017 study, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2016*, the National Center for Education Statistics found that 21 percent of students aged 12 to 18 said they were bullied at school; and

WHEREAS, the study also noted that 4 percent of students had access to a loaded gun without adult permission, either at school or away from school, during the school year; and

WHEREAS, the horrific prospect of school shootings made an indelible impression on the national consciousness with the Columbine massacre of 1999; and

WHEREAS, American students and staff have experienced school shooting tragedies that have resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives; and

WHEREAS, gun violence on school campuses, while relatively rare, represents a particularly egregious and unacceptable threat to the lives of students, teachers and staff across the country; and

WHEREAS, the recent shooting at Parkland Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School took 17 lives and shocked the conscience of the nation; and

WHEREAS, gun violence in schools occurs in America with a frequency and a severity that is unparalleled anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, exposure to trauma can adversely affect a child's health for the rest of their life; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach Unified School District supports the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, especially life-threatening forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, all students, regardless of background, deserve access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health; and

WHEREAS, safe schools provide an environment where teaching and learning can flourish; disruptions are minimized; violence, bullying and fear are absent; students are not discriminated against; expectations for behavior are clearly communicated and standards of behavior are maintained; and consequences for infractions are consistently and fairly applied; and

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including school-wide, districtwide and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislation level;