



## **Resolution: Affirming the Rights to Safe and Supportive Schools and Communities for All Students**

The work of the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) is grounded in our professional standards, position statements, resolutions, and other official policy statements. TASP reaffirms that we are a nonpartisan organization with a commitment to advocating for the rights, well-being, and educational and mental health needs of ALL students, and to ensuring that all students attend schools and live in communities that are safe, supportive, and free of bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence.

Whereas, TASP is committed to the promotion of equal opportunity, fairness, justice, and respect for all persons;

Whereas, TASP believes that racism, prejudice, and discrimination harm all children and youth and have a profoundly negative effect on school achievement, self-efficacy, and social-emotional growth;

Whereas, TASP supports and promotes efforts that create safe, secure, and peaceful schools and communities free of the destructive influence of violence in all of its forms because such efforts improve students' readiness to learn and build school climates characterized by positive civil engagement;

Whereas, All forms of school violence, including threats, teasing, verbal attacks, cyberbullying, and hate crimes, make schools less welcoming settings for students;

Whereas, Failure to address discriminatory actions, overt acts of school violence, or other forms of victimization compromises student development and academic achievement and undermines the resilience-promoting influence of schools;

Whereas, School psychologists advocate for structures that support equitable access and participation in educational opportunities for members of all groups;

Whereas, TASP ethical standards require school psychologists, in their words and actions, to promote positive school climates that are safe and welcoming to all persons regardless of actual or perceived characteristics, including race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, socioeconomic status, primary language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or any other distinguishing characteristic;

Whereas, TASP standards call for school psychologists to promote fairness and justice by cultivating safe, welcoming, inclusive school environments;

Whereas, School psychologists must endorse, promote, and engage in culturally competent practices, and advocate for these practices at the school, district, state, and national levels for more socially just

organizations and policies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, TASP is committed to ensuring that all students—whatever their race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability status, health condition, language proficiency, or immigration status—attend schools and live in communities that are free of bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, TASP is committed to empowering school psychologists to protect and ensure the rights of all students to receive such education in a positive, safe, supportive, and inclusive educational environment that promotes student learning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Texas Association of School Psychologists is committed to serving as a resolute voice and advocate for the rights, well-being, and educational and mental health needs of all students.

Approved by the TASP Executive Board on April 6, 2017.