

more individuals. The Association recognizes that bullying can affect the entire school community and work sites.

The Association also believes that its affiliates, collaborating with local school districts and institutions of higher education, should involve all stakeholders in developing comprehensive schoolwide programs to address all forms of bullying. Such programs should—

a. Establish strong policies prohibiting bullying that include the definition, consequences, and procedures for reporting and appeals

b. Develop and implement educational programs designed to help students recognize, understand, prevent, oppose, and eliminate bullying

c. Include activities to help all students, staff, and community members feel understood, respected, valued, and included by cultivating greater awareness and appreciation of our cultural similarities and differences in order to prevent bullying

d. Provide training for all school employees in bullying prevention and intervention

e. Encourage school boards to establish written policies designed to ensure the elimination of bullying, harassment, and intimidation of students and staff by other students and staff

f. Provide professional development materials and resources.

These programs should be reviewed, revised, and updated to reflect changing needs. (2004, 2013)

### **I-30. Traffic Safety**

The National Education Association believes that traffic deaths and injuries must be reduced. The Association supports—

a. Enactment and enforcement of effective and equitable legislation regulating driving while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other mind-altering substances

b. Appropriate educational experiences for students regarding the effects of driving while under the influence

c. Recognized community and school groups in their efforts to reduce death and injury from accidents caused by drivers under the influence

d. Legislation requiring mandatory restraint of all passengers in motor vehicles, excluding school buses. The legislation should require the use of seat belts for adults and minor children and approved car seats for infants and young children

e. Legislation requiring the use of helmets for bicycle and motorcycle riders

f. Continued research and the development of safety features and passive restraint systems for passengers in school buses and for the inclusion of those features shown to be effective

g. Legislation mandating no texting on cell phones while driving. (1982, 2010)

### **I-31. Gun-Free Schools and the Regulation of Deadly Weapons**

The National Education Association believes that all students and education employees must be allowed to learn and work in an environment free of unauthorized guns and other deadly weapons. Severe penalties should be enacted and

strenuously enforced for criminal actions involving guns and other deadly weapons, especially in school settings, and for those who profit from the illegal sale, importation, and distribution of these weapons. The Association also believes that individuals who bring guns or deadly weapons to school should be excluded from school and school grounds until completion of a mandatory prescribed intervention.

The Association further believes that our communities, schools, and students are safer when common sense gun regulations are in place. The Association supports banning assault weapons, limiting the capacity of ammunition magazines, requiring background checks and a waiting period for all gun purchases, creating a national database of gun sales, and preventing people with mental illness and/or a documented history of domestic violence from purchasing firearms. The Association believes that minors shall not be allowed to buy, own, or sell firearms.

The Association also believes that scientific and medical research on the causes and prevention of firearm violence should be extensive and ongoing and that gun owners should participate in educational programs that stress responsible ownership, including safe use and storage of guns. (1982, 2016)

### **I-32. Violence Against Females Worldwide**

The National Education Association condemns domestic and other violence against females, as well as the tolerance of such violence, and believes that all nations must establish and enforce measures

to curtail and prevent actions, policies, and practices that inflict pain, suffering, or death. (1993, 2015)

### **I-33. Sexual Assault**

The National Education Association believes that all members of society should be protected from becoming victims of sexual assault. The Association also believes that it is a violation of the victims' right to privacy to release the names of the victims or to have their past sexual history admitted as evidence in assault cases. The Association supports fair and equitable treatment by health, hospital, and law enforcement agencies for sexual assault victims. The Association further believes that access to necessary services/programs must be made available to victims and their families. These services must be funded by appropriate government agencies.

The Association believes that states should develop a systematic process for gathering evidence when such assaults occur and supports the use of DNA testing as a means to identify perpetrators of sexual assault. The Association also believes in the importance of counseling and rehabilitation for the assailant, and the protection of privacy and due process rights for both the victim and the alleged assailant. (1981, 2005)

### **I-34. Human Trafficking**

The National Education Association is committed to the abolition of all forms of human trafficking. Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them as defined by the