

# **Educational Issues Committee**

2024 Resolution

## **Teacher Assault**

WHEREAS, all students and staff deserve a safe learning environment that is free from threats of violence and physical attacks; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2022 survey from Education Week of 1,042 district leaders, principals, and teachers, 10 percent of educators reported they have been physically assaulted or attacked by a student; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics, in 2019, approximately 5 percent of students ages 12–18 reported that they had been afraid of attack or harm at school during the school year; and

WHEREAS, students with disabilities require a manifestation hearing to determine if their behavior is the result of their identified disability, but should still be held accountable for violence against staff and/or students; and

WHEREAS, many students do not have access to mental health services due to a lack of insurance and availability in their school buildings; and

WHEREAS, chronically violent students not only disrupt their own learning, but they continuously disrupt the learning and endanger the safety of their peers; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the OFT urges the state Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) and state legislature to fund district partnerships with school-based mental health agencies to provide timely and appropriate support to students from mental health professionals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, districts shall be required to have discipline policies that remove students from the learning environment where the assault occurred until the behavior has been addressed to ensure safety and prevent further violence; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, districts must provide a secure alternative learning environment for students who have been removed from their original learning environment due to violent behavior. It is important for each student to have a plan for transitioning back to their original learning environment or a more suitable alternative.