

**PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ON CALIFORNIA’S MEGAN’S LAW  
REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER DATABASE**

Adopted by Convention Delegates May 2008

- WHEREAS, The California State PTA is a professional, nonprofit volunteer association committed to and advocating for the safety and welfare of all children, and
- WHEREAS, A “nonpublic, nonsectarian school” means a school that enrolls individuals with exceptional needs pursuant to an Individualized Education Program and is certified by the California Department of Education; and
- WHEREAS, The purpose of Megan’s Law is to provide the public with information which will allow them to protect themselves and their families from convicted sex offenders; and
- WHEREAS, Among other provisions, Proposition 83 of 2006 modified the California Penal Code to restrict convicted sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of a school or park where children gather; and
- WHEREAS The California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, maintains the Internet-accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database that provides information on California’s most serious sex offenders searchable by city, county or zip code, school or park; and
- WHEREAS, The Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database lists only those nonpublic schools housed on public school campuses; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the California State PTA and its units, councils and districts advocate that the Internet-accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database maintained by Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General, be updated to include every nonpublic school serving students with exceptional needs, therefore supporting equal access to information that will allow these children and their families to protect themselves from convicted sex offenders.

**BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

California state law requires that certain sex offender information be made available to the public on the Internet accessible Megan’s Law Registered Sex Offender Database. However, the web page does not currently list nonpublic schools attended by children with exceptional needs unless the nonpublic school is housed on the campus of a regular public school.

**Promoting the Inclusion of Nonpublic Schools on California's Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender Database - *continued***

The California State PTA strongly believes state and local governments have an obligation to publicize and disseminate information regarding issues affecting the public's well-being. PTA further believes that every child is entitled to a safe and peaceful school environment. Californians have a right to know about the presence of sex offenders in their communities, near their schools, and around their children. The inclusion of nonpublic schools serving children with exceptional needs on the Megan's Law Registered Sex Offender Database will help to protect all children, including those who attend nonpublic schools and those who live or play in their proximity.

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