



## **A Joint Resolution Between Bristol Tennessee and the Bristol Virginia Boards of Education Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness Month**

Whereas, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic or stressful experiences including abuse, neglect, family dysfunction, and community violence which can disrupt the safe, stable, nurturing environments children need to thrive; and,

Whereas, ACEs can cause toxic stress, which can affect brain development and lead to a lifetime of physical, mental, economic, educational, and social challenges and have been linked to health problems such as obesity, addiction, heart disease, and hypertension; and,

Whereas, the Bristol Tennessee and Bristol Virginia Boards of Education recognize that a strong community depends on supporting the development of strong brain architecture and supporting the health and well-being of our students to create a foundation for lifelong health and responsible citizenship; and,

Whereas, adopting innovative, collaborative, trauma-informed approaches in workplaces, schools, communities, and governments can prevent or mitigate mental, emotional, physical, and/or social issues among those impacted by toxic stress; and,

Whereas, the economic burden of ACEs in Tennessee and Virginia is seen in direct medical costs and lost employee productivity, and Bristol's continued prosperity relies on our current action to prevent these adverse experiences whenever possible and to mitigate their impact when they cannot be prevented; and,

Whereas, trauma-informed care is not a therapy or intervention, but a principle-driven, culture- change process aimed at shifting a community's mental model to be more empathetic and resiliency-focused; and,

Whereas, Bristol Tennessee and Bristol Virginia Boards of Education members, along with numerous other professionals in the Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, communities have received Trauma-Informed Care training; and,

Whereas in 2019, through Bristol's Promise, Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia, launched a Trauma-Informed Care Community as best practice following recommendations by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2019, in partnership with Bristol Tennessee City Council, Bristol Virginia City Council, and Bristol Virginia School Board, the Bristol Tennessee Board of Education recognizes October 2019 as **Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness Month** to raise awareness and encourage residents to become informed about the impacts of ACEs and trauma-informed approaches that promote prevention, healing, and resiliency in children, adults, and communities to build a stronger, healthier Bristol.

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