

Resolution Number: 205-2026

Title: Amendment to Current Statements of Position or Policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula

Reference Committee Assignment: Education

Sponsor(s): Beshoy Lawindy, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Financial Impact: None

Board Comments: The Board recommends a yes vote.

Board Vote: Unanimous

Summary of Board Vote: Nothing to report as the vote was unanimous.

Reference Committee Comments:

Background:

Climate-related events and natural disasters—including extreme heat, wildfires, floods, hurricanes, winter storms, and power outages—are occurring with increasing frequency and severity across the United States. These events disrupt access to oral health care, interrupt clinical education, and pose safety risks to patients, students, faculty, and staff.

Dental professionals play an important role in maintaining continuity of care during emergencies and supporting broader public health response efforts. However, dental education currently lacks standardized training in disaster preparedness, emergency response, and climate resilience within clinical settings. As climate-related and public health emergencies increasingly affect health systems nationwide, it is critical that dental graduates are equipped with the skills necessary to adapt clinical operations, protect patient care, and collaborate with interdisciplinary public health systems.

ASDA supports modern, forward-looking dental education that prepares students to respond effectively to evolving public health challenges; therefore be it

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that ASDA’s Current Statements of Position or Policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula be amended as follows:

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that educate students on the impacts of climate change on oral health and the dental workforce.

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that develop and implement sustainability-focused education and research including, but not limited to:

- Education on the procurement of environmentally responsible and ethically sources dental supplies.
- Minimally invasive dentistry practices that reduce material usage and environmental impact.
- Development of frameworks for sustainable water management in dental practices, including water-efficient equipment and processes.
- Education on the environmental impact of dental materials, with strategies to minimize their footprint, reduce pollution, and implement best practices for waste reduction and environmentally responsible disposal.
- Integration of environmentally-responsible technologies to support sustainable practices.
- **Training in emergency clinic operations, continuity of patient care, and ethical decision-making during disasters and**
- **Education on the role of dentists within interdisciplinary public health and emergency response systems.**