

Gang Prohibitions

The district is obligated to protect the health, welfare and safety of all students. The district believes the presence of gangs and gang activities causes a substantial disruption of educational programs and school activities. The Board prohibits the existence of gangs and gang activities. Students who violate this district policy are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

The Board has determined that the presence and activities of gangs in schools threatens and has caused substantial disruption or material interference with school and school personnel. It is the policy of the district that gangs and gang-related activities shall not be permitted on or upon school property or at, or in conjunction with, any school activity.

A gang is defined as “any group of two or more persons whose activities include the commission of illegal acts.” “Gangs” are defined as a group that identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance or language (including hand signs), the claiming of geographical territory, or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity.

Guidelines: Gang Activities

1. The Board prohibits the existence of gangs and gang activities. No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall:
 - a. Wear, dress, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other thing(s) which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang. Students will not engage in activities which:
 - (1) Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts or other attributes are gang-related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or education objectives;
 - (2) Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff and others;
 - (3) Create an atmosphere in which a student, staff or other person’s well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture or threat of violence;
 - (4) Imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design or emblem upon any school or personal property or on one’s person.
 - b. Commit any act, use any speech, either verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, graffiti, writing, etc.) showing membership or affiliation in a gang;

- c. Use any speech or commit any act or commission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Soliciting others for membership in any gangs;
 - (2) Requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
 - (3) Committing any other illegal act or violation of school district policies;
 - (4) Inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person or encouraging other students to violate school/district policy.

Student Rights

- 1. Each student has the right to attend school without fear, intimidation and harassment by individuals or groups.
- 2. Each student has the right to individual behaviors as long as they are not disruptive to the classroom atmosphere, violate law or district policy or are perceived by others to be intimidation or harassment.

Student Responsibilities

- 1. All students shall comply with school district rules.
- 2. All students have a responsibility to ensure the school is a safe environment for peers, staff and the community.
- 3. Students who violate the district policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- 4. Students have a responsibility to concentrate on an educational program and academic achievement while avoiding gangs and gang activity.