

Secret Societies - Gangs

The purpose of this administrative rule is to assure that our student's personal appearance and behavior contributes to a healthy, safe and positive educational environment for both the students, staff and community of the Willamina School District.

A gang is defined as any group of two (2) or more persons 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.

Gang Behavioral Policy

The Willamina School District recognizes gang activity in any form threatens the safety and well being of individuals and is disruptive and harmful to the education process. The District refuses to allow gang activity to be associated with any aspect of the educational environment and prohibits the following behavior:

1. Gang initiation or hazing
2. Gang graffiti or tagging in any form
3. Gang hand signs or gestures
4. Display of Gang related tattoos
5. Gang solicitation or recruitment
6. Threats of intimidation
7. "Representing" of gang affiliation in any form (clothing and behavior)
8. Any activity that leads school officials to reasonably believe such behavior is disruptive and/or detracts from the educational objectives and/or the health and safety of students, staff or community.

General Personal Appearance Policy

While the students and/or parent may generally determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, the following are not acceptable or allowable at any Willamina School District school or at school sponsored events/activities:

1. Any clothing item or accessory that is deemed by school officials to advocate, represent, promote or advance gang activity, violence, sexual behavior, obscene language, alcohol, or drug usage or distribution The following guidelines shall also apply:

- a. Gang tattoos or markings will be covered at all times. Students with gang related tattoos will be asked to cover the tattoo during the school day or school related activity/event.
- b. Identification and confiscation of such items will be at the discretion of Willamina School District administration
- c. Confiscated items will either be returned to the student end of the day or can be picked up in the office by a parent/ guardian
- d. Additionally, the Willamina School District may prohibit specific clothing or other items at the District's discretion.

At the discretion of the Willamina School District administration, a violation of the personal appearance and/or behavioral policy may result in the student being required to sign a "Gang Contract" promising not to engage in gang behavior. A violation of the contract may result in disciplinary action up to and including recommendation for expulsion.

A student who observes suspected or actual gang related behaviors or activities is encouraged to report such observations to an administrator or staff member.

A staff member who receives a report of or who observes suspected or actual gang related behaviors or activities shall report such observations to an administrator.

Gang Contract Protocol and Procedure

Introduction

The gang contract process has proven to be a viable methodology for changing the behavior of certain students who engage in gang behavior in a school environment. The purpose of implementing the gang contract process is to give students who are obviously engaging in gang behavior the opportunity to change their behavior. Not only does the process compel the student to stop engaging in the behavior, but it also allows the student to inform other students that he or she cannot engage in gang activity because he or she is on a contract and may be removed from the school if they continue to engage in such behavior.

Importantly, the process is not about using the contract to justify removing a student from the school environment, but rather to give the student an opportunity to change gang behavior and continue to be a student at the school. The gang contract process should be used as a last resort to deal with gang behavior at school, as each student should be given the opportunity to change their behavior before this process is utilized.

PROCEDURE

The following procedure should be adhered to in terms of using the gang contract model:

1. Evidence of a student's involvement in gang activity must be documented by staff, maintained in a safe and secure administrative location, and should be treated as confidential information.
2. Ideally, no student should be placed on a gang contract until at least two or more incidents of gang behavior have been documented by staff.
 - a. An exception to this rule may be when a student openly admits that they are gang involved and expresses an intention to engage in such behavior while a student at the school.
3. Example of documentation of gang behavior may include:
 - a. Written and dated documentation from staff indicating that the student has admitted that he or she is a gang member;
 - b. Gang graffiti, signs, symbols or terminology written or drawn by the student on any surface (walls, papers, books, clothing)
 - c. Photograph(s) of the student obviously engaging in gang behavior (i.e., throwing obvious gang hand signs, obviously representing gang colors, displaying weapons or drugs, etc);
 - d. Written and dated information from a reliable source, indicating that the student is gang involved;
 - e. Written and dated documentation of the student's involvement in some form of gang behavior at school, i.e., fighting, recruiting, threatening other students, initiating other students, etc.

NOTE: Behavior should not be classified as gang-related unless it is clearly gang-related

4. Each student who is being considered for implementation of the gang contract process should have been given direction, warnings and opportunity to modify behavior, prior to activation of the gang contract process.
5. The length of time during which the student is bound to the contract is left to the discretion of the school administration, although it is recommended that the contract remain in force until the termination of the school year in which it was activated.

**Willamina School District
Gang Contract**

The visibility of gang and gang-related activities causes the potential for disruption of and/or interference with educational goals and a safe and secure school campus life. Because of this, gang behavior and gang-related activities are prohibited on Willamina School District (WSD) property or at WSD school affiliated activities.

Student _____ is believed to be gang affiliated based upon the following evidence or information:

- _____ The student has admitted that he or she claims gang affiliation (Staff/LE initials __ and date of admission _____)
- _____ The student has written or drawn gang symbols or markings while on WSD property (copy(s) of relevant document(s) attached)
- _____ The student is depicted in photographs representing gang affiliation, regardless of whether such photographs were taken on or off campus (See attached photographs)
- _____ The student has been identified by reliable sources as being gang affiliated and such information has been corroborated by independent evidence
- _____ The student's behavior causes WSD staff to be concerned about the potential for problems connected to his or her gang affiliation

The Willamina School District requires that students who claim gang affiliation or who are believed, through physical or verbal evidence, to be gang affiliated, engage in the following contract as a condition of continued enrollment at any Willamina School District school.

I, _____, hereby agree that I will not engage in the following activity or behavior while a student within the Willamina School District;

1. I will not wear, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other item which is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang;
2. I will not communicate, either verbally or non-verbally any gesture, handshake, slogan, or drawing to show membership or affiliation in a gang;
3. I will not commit any act which furthers gang activity including, but not limited to:
 - a. Soliciting others for membership in any gang;
 - b. Requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
 - c. Committing any illegal act or violation of WSD policies;
 - d. Inciting other students to act with violence upon any other person

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I understand that a violation of any condition of this contract will potentially subject me to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the Willamina School District and I understand and agree to the provisions of this contract.

Principal/Authorized Staff Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date