

Gangs

In accordance with Board policy, individual schools that have a gang presence may, in their safety plans, include schoolwide dress codes which prohibit the presence of gang-related apparel at school or school activities. These plans shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus.

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be updated whenever related information is received and reviewed at least once each semester by a committee consisting of staff, parents, and students.

School staff shall take the following measures to discourage the influence of gangs:

1. In accordance with school safety plans, any student wearing gang-related apparel or carrying gang-related paraphernalia shall be referred to the principal or designee. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and the student sent home to change clothes if necessary.
2. Any gang graffiti on school premises shall be quietly removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.

Graffiti shall be photographed before it is removed. These photographs will be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders.

3. Any gang graffiti found on individual student's materials will be confiscated and parent will be notified.
4. Schools shall have programs that enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of wholesome activities.

Gang Prevention Education

Gang prevention instruction offered in the school shall:

1. Explain the potential dangers of gang membership.
2. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution and gang avoidance skills.
3. Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement staff.

Community Outreach

The district will work closely with community agencies to educate parents and community members about the following topics:

1. The potential dangers of gang membership.
2. The scope and nature of local gang problems including gang apparel and graffiti.

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3. Ways that each segment of the community can help to alleviate these problems.
4. Ways to deal effectively with one's children.
5. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs.

Intervention Measures

Staff shall make every effort to assimilate gang-oriented students into the academic, extracurricular and social mainstream and into work experience programs. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.