

Students

AR 5136(a)

GANGS

The Governing Board desires to keep district schools free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which may exhibit disruptive behavior, drug use, violence, or discrimination. The Superintendent or designee shall take steps to deter gang intimidation of students and staff and confrontations between members of different gangs. He/she shall exchange information and establish mutually supportive efforts with local law enforcement authorities.

Students in gangs are disruptive to the educational environment. A "gang" in this regulation is defined as any group of persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts, willful disobedience, disruption of school activities, hazing, bullying, harassment, intimidation, or use of illegal drugs.

The Board prohibits wearing, use or possession, distribution, display, or presence of any, but not limited to:

- Apparel
- Jewelry
- Emblem
- Badge
- Symbol
- Trademarks
- Sign
- Accessory
- Notebook
- Book cover
- Paraphernalia
- Manner of grooming

which, by nature of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute, is recognized as emulating or denoting membership or affiliation with any gang. Any physical acts such as hand signals or use of language that may be emulating or denoting membership or affiliation with any gang is also prohibited. A student exhibiting any of the above behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action.

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Prevention and Intervention Measures

In order to discourage the influence of gangs, school staff shall take the following measures:

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel, or paraphernalia indicative of gang affiliation shall be referred to the principal or designee.
 - a. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff.
 - b. The student may be required to change clothes or remove or cover inappropriate items.
 - c. The Sheriff's Department shall be contacted at the discretion of the school administration.
2. Staff members will be provided with the names of known gang members when information is provided to the district by the Sheriff's Department.
3. Students who are identified as needing help in rejecting gang associations will be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.
4. Any graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down, or painted over as soon as discovered.
 - a. Regular checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus.
 - b. Graffiti shall be photographed before it is removed. These photographs will be shared with local law enforcement authorities to be used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders.
5. Programs will be offered at each school that are designed to enhance individual self esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of constructive activities. These programs may also:
 - a. Explain the dangers of gang membership
 - b. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
 - c. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in gang avoidance skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anger management, ethnic/cultural tolerance, and mediation skills

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- d. Provide school-to-career instruction
 - e. Provide positive interaction with local law enforcement staff
6. Staff shall actively promote membership in activities and organizations which can provide students a sense of safety, companionship, purpose, and belonging, including:
- a. Authorized student organizations
 - b. Sports, cultural activities, and affiliations with the local community
 - c. Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

Community Outreach

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:

- 1. The dangers of gang membership
- 2. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs
- 3. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti
- 4. Effective parenting techniques
- 5. Conflict resolution techniques