

GANG AFFILIATION AND ACTIVITY

Gang-related activity can be intimidating to students, faculty and staff, and is disruptive to the educational process. The following activities are prohibited on school property or at school-sponsored events: the use of hand signals or graffiti; presence of any clothing, jewelry, accessories, emblems, colors, paraphernalia or manner of dress or grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute, denotes membership in or an affiliation with a criminal gang; and any activity that encourages participation in a criminal gang or facilitates illegal acts of a criminal gang.

Any violation of this policy by ~~pupils~~ **students** may result in suspension or expulsion. Actions taken to control and correct undesirable student behavior should take individual circumstances into account but must always be most concerned for the safety and educational welfare of the majority of students.

Since gang behavior, markers and colors are variable and subject to rapid change, site administrators and staff must exercise judgment and individual discretion based upon current circumstances in their schools when evaluating gang-related activity. Gang-related indicators which will be considered should include, but are not limited to:

- a. The student associates with admitted or known gang members;
- b. The student wears attire consistent with gang dress;
- c. The student displays gang logos, graffiti and/or symbols on personal possessions;
- d. The student displays gang hand signs or signals to others; and
- e. The student talks about gang activity to others.

A “criminal gang” means any combination of persons organized formally or informally, so constructed that the organization will continue its operation even if individual members enter or leave the organization, which:

- Has a common name or identifying symbol;
- Has particular conduct, status and customs indicative of it; and
- Has as one of its common activities engaging in criminal activity punishable as a felony.

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