

**Students**

**Gangs and Gang Symbols**

The Board of Education desires to keep district schools free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which exhibit drug use, violence or disruptive behavior. 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide inservice training which helps staff to identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior. Staff shall be informed about conflict management techniques and alerted to intervention measures and community resources.

The Board realizes that many students become involved in gangs without understanding the consequences of gang membership. Gang violence prevention education shall start with students in the early elementary grades and may start in kindergarten.

To further discourage the influence of gangs, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school rules of conduct are enforced consistently and that all students have access to counselors as needed. If a student exhibits signs of gang affiliation, staff shall so inform the parent/guardian.

The Board believes that gang-related apparel is hazardous to the health and safety of the school environment. When there is evidence of a gang presence in district schools that disrupts or threatens to disrupt school activities, the Superintendent or designee may establish reasonable dress code regulations prohibiting students from wearing gang-related apparel. In addition, individual schools may, in their school safety plans, prohibit gang-related apparel on school grounds.

**Gang Symbols**

The Board of Education believes that gang activity is dangerous and inimical to the health and safety of the students in the District. The Board desires to take appropriate action to keep District schools and students free from the threats or harmful influences of gangs or other groups which advocate drug use or disruptive behavior.

The Board of Education believes that the health and safety of students are in jeopardy when students wear or carry any clothing or symbol that denotes membership in such a group. The Board further believes that students wearing or carrying any clothing or symbol that denotes membership in such a group has detrimental effect on the academic atmosphere of the schools in that students are led to believe that drug use and/or disruptive behavior are condoned. Further, the wearing or carrying of any such clothing or symbol can disrupt the educational process or create a clear and present danger of such disruption.

Therefore, the wearing or carrying of any clothing or symbol that denotes gang activity is prohibited on school grounds and at school activities, both on and off campus.

Prohibited items of clothing or symbols include, but are not limited to, any item of clothing, jewelry, accessory, notebook or symbol which, by the nature of its color, design, arrangement, representation, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang or any other group which advocates drug use or disruptive behavior.

This policy shall be applied by the principal as the need for it arises at individual school sites.

Legal References:        EDUCATION CODE  
32282 School safety plans  
35183 Gang-related apparel  
48907 Student exercise of free expression  
51264 Educational inservice training; CDE guidelines  
51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice training  
51266-51266.5 Model gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum  
58700-58736 Gang risk intervention programs  
PENAL CODE  
186.22 Participation in criminal street gang  
13826-13826.7 Gang violence suppression  
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20  
7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act  
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:  
CDE PUBLICATIONS  
On Alert: Gang Prevention in School and Inservice Guidelines, January 1994  
CSBA PUBLICATIONS  
Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence,  
1995

Policy  
adopted:        06/02/98  
revised:        11/19/02 (technical revision)  
revised:        09/21/04 (technical revision)  
revised:        05/03/05 (technical revision)