

SECRET SOCIETIES/GANG ACTIVITY

The Board of Education desires to keep District schools and students free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug use, violence or disruptive behavior. The Principal or their designee shall maintain continual, visible supervision of school premises, school vehicles and school-related activities to deter gang intimidation of students and confrontations between members of different gangs.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities so as to share information and provide mutual support in this effort.

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

Gang Symbols:

The Board prohibits the presence on school premises, in school vehicles and at school-related activities of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute denotes membership in gangs which advocate drug use, violence or disruptive behavior. This policy shall be applied at the principal's discretion after consultation with the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee as the need for it arises at individual school sites.

Prevention Education:

The Board realizes that many students become involved in gangs without understanding the consequences of gang membership. Early intervention is a key component of efforts to break the cycle of gang membership. Therefore gang violence prevention education in the schools may start with students in third grade.

Gangs:

At the principal's discretion, staff members may use the following techniques to discourage the influence of gangs:

1. Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang members will be referred to the Principal or his/her designee. The student's parents/guardians will be contacted and the student sent home to change clothes if necessary.
2. Any gang graffiti on school premises will be quietly removed, washed down or painted over as soon as it is discovered.
 - a. Daily checks for graffiti will be made throughout the campus, including restroom walls and doors.
 - b. Graffiti will 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. Classroom and after-school programs at each school will be designed to enhance individual self esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior and foster interest in a variety of wholesome activities.
4. Staff members will actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety and a sense of purpose and belonging.

Gang Prevention Education:

Gang prevention instruction offered in the schools will:

1. Explain the dangers of gang membership.
2. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in non-violent conflict resolution and gang avoidance skills.
3. Promote constructive activities available in the community,
4. Involve students in structured, goal-oriented community service projects.
5. Encourage positive school behavior.

Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement officers.

Community Outreach:

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

1. Dangers of gang membership.
2. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti.
3. Ways to deal effectively with one's children.
4. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs.

Community programs offered for staff, parents/guardians, churches, city officials, business leaders and the media will address:

1. The scope and nature of local gang problems.
2. Ways that each segment of the community can help to alleviate these problems.

Intervention Measures:

Staff members will make every effort to assimilate gang-oriented students into the academic, extracurricular and social mainstream and into work experience programs. To this end:

1. Staff members will be provided with the names of known gang members.
2. Insofar as possible, classroom teachers will assign individual gang-oriented students to cooperative learning groups in which they may work toward common goals with students who are not members of their gang.
3. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community based gang suppression and prevention organizations.

ADOPTED: 4/97
REVISED: 2/13

LEGAL REFS.; C.R.S. 22-1-120(8)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a)(1)(F) (policy required as part of safe schools plan)

CROSS REFS.; IHACA*, Law-Related Education
JICA, Student Dress Code