

## **STUDENT SAFETY**

The purpose of this regulation is to implement BP 5142, to ensure that a high priority is placed on student safety from injury and accidents and to reduce the rate of school crime including vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, gang membership, gang violence, and hate crimes.

### **Definitions**

*Gang-related apparel* means any dress or clothing that is considered hazardous to the health site principal, or which is defined specifically by a school site safety plan. [Education Code (EC) 32282(F)]

*Hate crimes* means any threat or act of physical intimidation, harassment, force, or violence that is directed against any person or group of persons or their property because of ethnicity, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or political or religious beliefs of that person or group.

*Safety plan* means a plan to develop strategies aimed at the prevention of, and education about, potential incidents involving crime and violence on Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) school sites.

### **Comprehensive School Safety Plan**

MCOE shall develop a comprehensive school safety plan that addresses, at a minimum, the following safety concerns identified through a systematic planning process: [EC 32282]

1. Assessing the current status of school crime committed on sites and at school-related functions
2. Identifying appropriate strategies and programs that will provide or maintain a high level of school safety and address the site procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety, which shall include the development of all of the following:
  - a. Child abuse reporting procedures
  - b. Disaster procedures, routine and emergency, including adaptations for students with disabilities. [42 United States Code (USC) 12101 et seq.] These procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - i. Establishing an earthquake emergency procedure system in every school site building having an occupant capacity of 50 or more students or more than one classroom at the site. The system shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

A school building disaster plan, reading for implementation at any time, for maintaining the safety and care of students and staff;

A drop procedure whereby each student and staff member takes cover under a table or desk, dropping to his or her knees, with the head protected by the arms, and the back to the window. A drop procedure practice shall be held at least once each school quarter at elementary school sites and at least once a semester at secondary school sites;

Protective measures to be taken before, during, and following an earthquake;

A program to ensure that students and all MCOE staff are aware of, and properly trained in, the earthquake emergency procedure system.

- c. Establishing a procedure to allow a public agency, including the American Red Cross, to use school site buildings, grounds, and equipment for mass care and welfare shelters during disasters or other emergencies affecting the public health and welfare. MCOE shall cooperate with the public agency in furnishing and maintaining the services as MCOE may deem necessary to meet the needs of the community.
3. Policies regarding students who have committed one of the following acts EC 48915(c) and other school designated serious acts which would lead to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory expulsion recommendations.
  - Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm without prior written permission to possess the firearm by a certificated school employee and approved by the MCOE site principal or designee
  - Brandishing a knife at another person
  - Unlawfully selling a controlled substance as identified in H&S 11053
  - Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in EC 48900(n) or committing a sexual battery as defined in EC 48900(n)
  - Possession of an explosive.
4. Procedures to notify teachers of dangerous students [EC 49079]
5. A discrimination and harassment policy
6. Provisions in any school-wide dress code that prohibits students from wearing "gang-related apparel." For the purposes of this regulation, gang-related apparel shall not be considered a protected form of speech.
7. Procedures for the safe ingress and egress of students, parents, and school employees to and from school.
8. A safe and orderly environment conducive to learning at the school.
9. Hate crime reporting procedures.
10. Rules and procedures on school discipline.

**Implementation of School Safety Plan**

MCOE shall have a school safety planning committee responsible for developing and updating a comprehensive school safety plan. This plan shall be evaluated and amended, as needed by the committee at least once per year.

This plan shall be available for inspection by the public.

**Gangs**

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

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel, or paraphernalia indicative of gang affiliation shall be referred to the MCOE site principal or designee. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff. The student may be sent home to change clothes, if necessary.
2. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.
3. Any gang graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down, or painted over as soon as discovered. Daily checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus. Graffiti shall be photographed before it is removed. These photographs shall be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders.
4. Classroom and after-school programs at each MCOE school site shall be designed to enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of constructive activities. These programs shall also:
  - Explain the dangers of gang membership
  - Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
  - Provide school-to-career instruction
  - Provide positive interactions with local law enforcement staff
  - Assign individual gang members to cooperative learning groups in which they may work toward common goals with students who are not members of their gang
  - 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.

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

1. Staff shall promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students with companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging, including:
  - Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

- Positive sports and cultural activities and affiliations with the local community;
2. Parent Support - Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:
- Dangers of gang membership
  - Nature of local gang apparel and graffiti
  - Effective parenting techniques
  - Conflict resolution techniques
  - Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs.