

GANG-RELATED BEHAVIORS AND DRESS

This policy has been adopted pursuant to the requirements of state law in recognition of the fact that gang activities at school impose a threat to the welfare and safety of students and others in the school community and cause substantial disruption to the educational process. The term “gang” as used in this policy refers to all groups of three or more individuals with a common interest, bond, or activity characterized by criminal or delinquent conduct, engaged in either collectively or individually.

1. Any manner of grooming or apparel, including clothing, jewelry, hats, emblems, and badges which by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute is associated with or denotes membership in or affiliation with any gang or group which advocate drug use, violence or disruptive behavior will not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds, at school-sanctioned activities and events, or while being transported in school approved vehicles. The prohibition on gang-related apparel shall be applied at the discretion of building level administrators, after consultation with the superintendent or designee, as the need arises at individual schools.
2. Gestures, signals or graffiti which connote gang membership or activities are prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds, at school-sanctioned activities and events, and while being transported in school approved vehicles. This prohibition of gang-related gestures, signals, and graffiti shall be applied at the discretion of building level administrators, after consultation with the superintendent or designee, as the need arises at individual schools.
3. Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation, or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students or staff will result in suspension and/or expulsion.
4. Gangs or individuals who initiate, promote, or participate in activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or at school-related activities, or which disrupt the school environment will be suspended and/or expelled.
5. Gang graffiti on school premises shall be quietly removed, washed down, or painted over as soon as discovered and photographed. The photographs shall be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal actions against the offenders.
6. Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership shall be referred to the principal or designee for disciplinary action. The student’s parents/guardians will be contacted and the student sent home to change clothes if necessary.

7. Disciplinary action for violation of these standards will include notification of the violation; where applicable, the requirement that the apparel be changed before reentering class; and, at the discretion of the building level administrator, a parental conference. More severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion, shall result from repeated or serious violations.
8. The superintendent or designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities so as to share information and provide mutual support in the enforcement of this policy and to further its purposes.
9. The superintendent or designee, acting in his/her discretion, may provide in-service training to help school personnel identify gang activities, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior in the schools.
10. Subject to approval of the superintendent or designee, principals may establish additional, specific standards for their own schools. These standards will be published and made available to students and parents.

Originally adopted: November 11, 2010

Latest revision: November 1, 2018

Revised: July 1, 2013

LEGAL REFS: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(F) policy required as part of safe school plan

CROSS REFS: F-1: Safe Schools