GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

The **Charlottesville City** School Board recognizes the existence of gangs in the community and the threat they pose to the educational environment. Therefore, students must not engage in gang-related activity on school grounds, on school buses, or on any school sponsored activity. In addition, students must not engage in gang-related activity using the School Division computer system at any time.

A gang is defined by Va. Code § 18.2-46.1 as "any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal,

- which has as one of its primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more criminal activities,
- which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, **and**
- whose members individually or collectively have engaged in the commission of, attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more predicate criminal acts, at least one of which is an act of violence, provided such acts were not part of a common act or transaction."

Students are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy JFC Student Conduct and the Standards of Student Conduct issued by the superintendent for participating in gang-related activity. Gang-related activity is defined as:

- wearing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other thing that is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang;
- committing any act, or using any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (such as gestures or handshakes), showing membership or affiliation in a gang;
- using any speech or committing any act in furtherance of the interests of any gang, including: (a) soliciting, hazing, and initiating others for membership in any gang, (b) requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person, (c) committing any other illegal act or other violation of school policy and inciting other students to act with physical violence; **or**
- inappropriate congregating, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, degradation, disgrace, and/or related activities which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or mental harm to students, employees, or visitors.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee, in cooperation with local law enforcement and/or juvenile agencies, will develop and regularly update a regulation

listing known gang clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, signs, gestures, handshakes, and symbols.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee will provide in-service training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk of gang involvement and promote membership in authorized school groups and/or activities as an alternative.

Adopted: July 16, 1998
Revised: June 19, 2008
Revised: June 25, 2013
Revised: August 1, 2019
Revised: June 17, 2021
Adopted: June 4, 2026

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-46.1, 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-79(2), § 22.1-276.01, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Refs.:

EB	School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan
EBB	Threat Assessment Teams
IIBEA/GAB	Acceptable Computer System Use
JFC	Student Conduct