

## GANGS

In accordance with Board of Trustees policy, individual schools may, in their safety plans, include school-wide dress codes which prohibit the presence of gang-related apparel at school or school activities. School-wide dress codes shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus.

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each year and updated whenever related information is received.

### Prevention and Intervention Measures

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

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel or paraphernalia indicative of gang affiliation shall be referred to his/her counselor or administration.
  - a. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff.
  - b. The student may be sent home to change clothes if necessary.
  - c. Staff members shall be provided with the names of known gang members.
  - d. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.
2. Any gang graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.
  - a. Daily checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus.
  - b. 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.
3. Programs at each school 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:
  - a. Explain the dangers of gang membership
  - b. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
  - c. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution and gang avoidance skills
  - d. 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
  - e. Provide school-to-career instruction

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

4. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging, including:
  - a. Positive sports and cultural activities and affiliations with the local community
  - b. Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

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

1. The dangers of gang membership
2. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs
3. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti
4. Effective parenting techniques

Community programs shall address:

1. The scope and nature of local gang problems
2. Strategies by which each segment of the community may alleviate gang problems