

GANG ACTIVITY (REGULATIONS)

Gang Activities

The board recognizes that the harm done by the presence and activities of gangs in the public schools exceed the immediate consequences of activities including violence and destruction of property. Gang activities also create an atmosphere of intimidation in the entire school community. Both the immediate consequences of gang activity and the secondary effects are disruptive and obstructive of educational processes and school activities. Therefore, gangs and gang activities are prohibited in this school district.

1. Definition: For the purposes of these regulations, a “gang” is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the encouragement, support, or commission of illegal acts or acts in violation of disciplinary rules of this school district.
2. Prohibitions: No student on or about school property or at any school-related activity shall:
 - A. Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other item that evidences or reflects membership in or affiliation with any gang;
 - B. Engage in any act, either verbal or nonverbal, including gestures or handshakes, showing membership or affiliation in any gang;
 - C. Engage in any act, in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to:
 1. Soliciting membership in or affiliation with any gang;
 2. Soliciting any person to pay for “protection,” or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly, with violence or with any other illegal or prohibited act;
 3. Painting, writing, or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols, or signs on school property;
 4. Engaging in violence, extortion, or any other illegal act or other violation of school policy;
 5. Soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person.
3. Application and Enforcement:
 - A. In determining, as part of the application and enforcement of these regulations, whether acts, conduct, or activities are gang-related, school officials are encouraged to exercise judgment based upon current circumstances in their schools, neighborhoods, and community.
 - B. The removal of gang-related graffiti shall be a priority in maintenance of school property. All such graffiti on school property shall be removed or covered within 24 hours of its first appearance to school officials, or as soon thereafter as possible, unless additional time is needed to obtain replacements for damaged items.

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- C. School officials should also encourage private property owners to promptly remove or cover gang-related graffiti on private property in school neighborhoods.
 - D. School officials are to work closely with local law enforcement officials in controlling gang-related activities. Local law enforcement can provide school officials with information regarding gang activities in the area, including names and characteristics of local gangs.
 - E. The superintendent, in consultation with the appropriate building principals, should report instances of gang-related criminal acts or acts of serious disruption to local law enforcement authorities for further action.
4. Violations of Policy:
- Students who violate school policy and these regulations shall be subject to the full range of school disciplinary measures, in addition to applicable criminal and civil penalties.
5. Disciplinary Procedures:
- A. When a staff member or contract person has reasonable, individualized suspicion that a student is in violation of school policy and these regulations, the student will be sent to the principal or the principal's designee.
 - B. Upon determination of violation, the principal or designee will make a reasonable effort to notify the student's parent or guardian as soon thereafter as possible. The student will be suspended until the parents attend a conference with the principal or designee to apply disciplinary procedures.
 - C. First Violation: Five days suspension from school and five days in-school suspension.
 - D. Second Violation: Ten days suspension from school and ten days in-school suspension.
 - E. Third Violation: Suspension from school for the maximum term permitted by law.
6. Parents must be contacted and come for a conference with the principal or designee.

Secret Societies

The board of education has the power to regulate and control all secret letter organizations, social orders, societies, and fraternities within the schools under its jurisdiction. No function of any such organization may be carried on in any school, on any school grounds, or at any school-related function, and all students who are members of such organizations will be bound by the policies of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-105
70 O.S. §24-131**