

Code: **JFCE**
Adopted: June 14, 2007

Secret Societies/Gang Activity

It is the policy of this district that membership in gangs, secret fraternities or sororities, or in other clubs not sponsored by established agencies or organizations, is prohibited.

“Gang” is defined as a group that identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance or language, including hand signs, the claiming of geographical territory or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity.

Gangs which initiate, advocate or promote activities which threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on district grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger to the school environment and educational objectives of the community are forbidden.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, harassment, menacing, bullying, intimidation and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

Any student wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and expulsion.

The superintendent may provide in-service training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk and promote membership in authorized school groups and activities as an alternative.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Olesen v. Board of Education of School District No. 228, 676 F. Supp. 820 (N.D. Ill. 1987).
Tinker v. Des Moines Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).

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