

Policy

SECRET SOCIETIES/GANG ACTIVITY

Code JAB Issued 3/16/22

The District administration will maintain conditions on school property and at school-sponsored events in order to provide as safe an environment as possible for students and staff in accordance with law and the standards set by the Board. In establishing such standards, the Board prohibits the presence and activities of gangs on or near school property and at school-sponsored events.

The Board defines a gang as any non-school sponsored group, possibly of secret and/or exclusive membership, whose purpose or practices include the commission of illegal acts, the violation of school rules, the establishment of territory or “turf,” or any other action which threatens the safety or welfare of others. In prohibiting the presence and activities of gangs, the Board makes the following findings:

- Secret societies and gangs that initiate, advocate, or promote activities threatening safety and well-being of persons or their possessions anywhere on or near school property or at school-sponsored events or that disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational purposes of the District.
- Gang incidents involving recruitment, initiation, hazing, wearing of colors, or other related activities of such group affiliations are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical and mental harm to students and are prohibited.
- The use of hand signals and the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, book, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute, denotes membership in a gang creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school and is prohibited. In determining whether or not a student is in violation of the prohibition on the wearing or display of a gang-related item, the school administration will make pictures of potential gang indicators available to students and parents as needed. In providing these examples for students and parents, the Board acknowledges that not all potential gang indicators actually connote actual membership in a gang.

The administration will establish procedures and regulations to ensure the discipline of any student wearing, carrying, or displaying secret society and gang paraphernalia, exhibiting behavior or gestures that symbolize secret societies and gang membership, or causing or participating in activities that intimidate or affect the attendance of another student. If the District determines that a student has initiated or participated in a gang or a secret society as stipulated in this policy, that student will be disciplined in a manner that may include, but will not be limited to, detention, removal from extracurricular activities, suspension, and/or expulsion, and referral

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to law enforcement, dependent upon the circumstances of the particular offense. The District also reserves the right to prohibit any student from wearing/displaying any article of clothing or accessory which the district has determined to be a gang indicator.

The administration will ensure in-service training is provided in secret society and gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk and promote membership in authorized school groups or activities as an alternative.

Adopted 6/28/16; Revised 3/15/22

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-63-270 - Regulation or prohibition of clubs or like activities on school property.
Section 59-63-275 - Student hazing prohibited; definitions.