

# Board policy prohibits gangs in our schools

The Board of Trustees recognizes the harm done by the presence and activities of gangs in public schools.

Gang activities 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 the process of education and school activities.

Gangs and gang activities are prohibited in our schools, according to:

## Definition

- For purposes of this policy, a “gang” is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts, or acts in violation of disciplinary rules of the district.

- “Gang-related activity” includes but is not limited to the prohibited conduct set forth below.

## Prohibitions

- No student on or about school property or at any school activity will be allowed to
  - wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other items that evidences or reflects membership in or affiliation with any gang;
  - engage in any act – either verbal or nonverbal, including gestures or handshakes – showing membership or affiliation with any gang; or
  - engage in any act in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to,
    - » soliciting membership in, or affiliation with, any gang;
    - » soliciting any person to pay for “protection,” or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly,

with violence or with any other illegal or prohibited act;

- » painting, writing, or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols, or signs, on school property;
- » engaging in violence, extortion, or any other illegal act or other violation of school policy;
- » soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person.

## Violations of policy

- Students who violate this policy will be subject to the full range of disciplinary measures ranging from in-school suspension to expulsion based on the totality

and severity of the circumstances and the principal’s discretion.

- Law enforcement will be notified when violations of criminal law are detected.

Adopted May 15, 2007

## Constitutional & Statutory Provisions

### South Carolina Code, 1976,

#### as amended

- Section 16-3-510 – Organizations and entities revised.
- Section 59-19-90 – General powers and duties of school trustees.
- Sections 59-63-210 through 270 – Grounds for which trustees may expel, suspend or transfer pupils; petition for readmission; notices and parent conferences; expulsion for remainder of year and hearings; transfer of pupils; corporal punishment; regulation or prohibition of clubs or like activities.
- Section 59-63-275 – Student hazing prohibited.
- Section 59-67-240 – Other duties of bus driver; discipline of students for misconduct.
- Section 59-63-110, et. seq. – Safe School Climate Act

### State Board of Education Regulations

- R43-279 - Minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.