

Book Policy Manual

Section 200 Pupils

Title Gangs

Code 218.3

Status From PSBA

# Purpose

The Board recognizes the importance of providing a safe learning and working environment for students, employees and visitors and that the presence of gang activity threatens the safety of the school environment. It shall be the policy of the Board to aggressively pursue the prevention and suppression of gang activity in the school through identification, collaboration and training.

# Definition

For purposes of this policy, a **gang** shall be defined as a group or association individuals associated with criminal activities or whose purpose includes the commission of illegal acts; have displayed or expressed intention to cause a substantial disruption to the school environment or otherwise to threaten, intimidate or do violence to members of the school community; and who refer to themselves by a group name or designation. This definition shall also include what is commonly known as a hate group.

# Authority

The Board prohibits gang activity on school property or at any school-sponsored activity or during the time the student is traveling to or from school.

# Gang Activity: Gang Activity shall constitute any activity or conduct whether by one or more individuals that includes the following:

1. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling of any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, tattoos or manner of grooming, or other thing which indicates or implies membership in, or affiliation with any gang, and/or is representative of any gang.
2. Commission of any act or omission, or the use of any speech, either verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, etc.), which indicates or implies membership in or affiliation with any gang, and/or is representative of any gang.
3. Use of any speech, or committing any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including but not limited to:
   1. Soliciting others for membership in any gangs.
   2. Requesting any person to pay for protection or otherwise intimidating, threatening, hazing or harassing any person.
   3. Commission of endorsement of any illegal act or violation of district policies.
   4. Inciting another person to act with physical violence upon any other person or to cause damage to property.
   5. Painting, writing or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, insignias or signs on school property.
4. Endorsement of the use of illegal drugs, intoxicants or other banned substances.
   1. Gang activity is prohibited on school property, school sponsored activities and to and from school.

Implementation

A school or school district employee shall report all suspected signs of gang activity to his/her administrator. In determining whether acts are gang-related, administrators are to exercise discretion and judgment based upon current circumstances in their school and surrounding neighborhood and the definition set forth in this policy.

No student may engage in the above whether or not s/he is connected with a gang.

The administration shall devise a schedule of penalties for engaging in activities in violation of this policy.

Notification of this policy shall be given to all students and employees.

Gang clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols or signs shall be identified by school administrators. Administrators shall consult with police and/or the district's Office of Community and Student Services as needed, to help them determine what is gang-related.

Administration shall report all incidents consistent with procedural guidelines.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and publish guidelines to address the following objections:

1. Identification of students engaged in gang activity or susceptible to gang intervenes;
2. Document all incidents reasonably believed to be related to gangs or gang activity;
3. Ensure that Safety Plans are put into effect for the protection of students and staff from harmful gang activity;
4. Provide for counseling and support for students who wish to leave gangs or to avoid joining gangs;
5. Ensure open communication with law enforcement and social service agencies to mitigate or eliminate the harmful acts gangs have on the education environment; and
6. Provide training for staff on the recognition and prevention of gangs and gang activity.