

Gang Affiliation/Gang-Related Behavior (Administrative Rule)

Code #443.08AR

Tri-County Area School District students shall not be affiliated with any gangs or involved in inflammatory, antisocial or criminal activities ("gang related behavior") on school grounds or while involved in school sponsored activities.

Students will refrain from "gang-related behavior" which causes or may cause a disruption of school or school-sponsored activities.

The school staff will take active steps in monitoring, documenting, and abating gang affiliation and "gang-related behavior" on school grounds.

If school officials record student involvement in gangs or gang-related behavior, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed in writing. The form letter attached to this policy will be used to inform parent(s)/guardian(s).

Violation of this policy will subject students to appropriate disciplinary action which may include suspension or expulsion.

RELATED DEFINITION:

A "gang" as defined by this policy is a group of three or more individuals with a unique name, identifiable marks or symbols who claim turf or territory, who associate on a regular basis, and/or who engage in inflammatory, antisocial or criminal activity.

School officials will use the following criteria for identifying youths as gang members. The following "gang-related behaviors" are prohibited in schools, on school property, on busses or school-related events:

1. Having gang tattoos/body markings.
2. Wearing/displaying gang clothing, accessories, hair styles, or grooming that could include distinctive, unique, and/or identifiable clothing colors and head coverings which implies membership, affiliation or sympathy with a gang. The reference to gang clothing encompasses the way in which a particular item of clothing is worn.

3. Displaying gang markings or slogans on personal property or clothing, including a student's personal belongings (backpack, agenda, notebooks, folders, etc.).
4. Possessing literature that indicates gang membership.
5. Admitting gang membership.
6. Engaging in criminal activities which disrupt school or school-sponsored activities.
7. Being identified as a gang member by a reliable informant, relative, or law enforcement agency.
8. Exhibiting behavior fitting police profiles of gang-related drug dealing.
9. Wearing, displaying, possessing, using, distributing, carrying, and/or selling gang insignia. The reference to "gang insignia" encompasses items that signify gang activity by the manners in which they are worn.
10. Initiations, hazings, or intimidation.

This policy is not intended to limit the right of the Administration to establish rules or restrictions regarding other paraphernalia or dress that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the learning environment of any school. If there is a disagreement between students and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) and the staff regarding the appropriateness of clothing or other paraphernalia, the Principal will use his/her discretion to make the final decision.

Prior Approval:	December 19, 2006
Attorney Review:	January 2016.
Approved:	February 24, 2016