

Secret Societies/Gang Activity

Gangs

At the principal's discretion, staff members may use the following techniques to discourage the influence of gangs:

1. Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership will be referred to the principal or his/her designee. The student's parents/ guardian will be contacted, and if necessary will be asked to pick up their child and take the child home to change clothes.
2. Daily checks for graffiti will be made throughout each school's campus, including rest room walls and doors.
 - a. Graffiti will be photographed before it is removed. These photographs will be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders.
 - b. Any gang graffiti on school premises will be quietly removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.
3. Classroom and after-school programs at each school will be designed to enhance individual students' self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior and foster interest in a variety of wholesome activities.
4. Staff members will actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety and a sense of purpose and belonging.

Gang Prevention Education

Gang prevention instruction offered in the schools will:

1. Explain the dangers of gang membership.
2. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution and gang avoidance skills.
3. Promote constructive activities and involve students in structured, goal-oriented community service projects available in the community.
4. Encourage positive school behavior on a daily basis in and out of the classroom.

Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers, community liaisons and law enforcement officers.

Community Outreach

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians will address the following topics:

1. Dangers of gang membership.
2. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti.
3. Ways to deal effectively with one's children.
4. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs.

Community programs offered for staff, parents/guardians, churches, city officials, business leaders and the media will address:

1. The scope and nature of local gang problems.
2. Ways that each segment of the community can help to alleviate these problems.

Intervention Measures

Staff members will make every effort to assimilate gang-oriented students into the academic, extracurricular and social mainstream as well as work-experience programs. To this end:

1. Insofar as possible, classroom teachers will assign individual gang-affiliated students to cooperative learning groups in which they may work toward common goals with students who are not members of their gang.
2. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.

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