

GANG, TAGGER, CREW, AND/OR CLIQUE AFFILIATION AND ACTIVITY 8701

The Board of Trustees intends to maintain campuses which are safe for students and staff in accordance with the mandate of the Constitution of the State of California. In meeting this commitment, the Board of Trustees finds that gangs which initiate or advocate activities which threaten the safety and well-being of persons or property on school campuses are harmful to the educational purposes for which the schools are operated. The Board further finds that 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 such a group creates a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

The Board further finds that incidents involving initiations, hazings, intimidations and/or related activities of such group affiliations are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students and are prohibited.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate regulations to ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia, or making gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing an incident affecting the school attendance of another student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide staff inservice training in gang recognition and communicate to all staff current symbols of gang membership.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish programs aimed at improving self-esteem through self-improvement and accomplishment by fostering interest in a variety of wholesome activities including academic pursuits.

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The principals of all district schools shall ensure that:

- 1.0 School policies are prepared and adopted in accordance with the provisions of Education Code Section 35291.5, said policies to encompass the provisions detailed in the first two paragraphs of board policy 8701.
- 2.0 Adopted school policies are included in printed rules and regulations provided to students and parents.
- 3.0 All site staff, certificated and classified, are aware of the provisions of board policy 8701 and of the responsibilities they have for complying with the provisions, these to include:
 - 3.1 Ensuring continuing staff, parent and student awareness of the signs of gang, tagger, crew, and/or clique affiliation/activity, with programs to inform students of the potential dangers such involvement poses;
 - 3.2 A referral policy to the principal/designee for any student considered to be in violation of the letter and/or spirit of the policy;
 - 3.3 Procedures to provide intervention(s) with students found to be in violation of the provisions of policy 8701;
 - 3.4 Provisions to recommend expulsion on any student who, after being involved with intervention strategies and admonished regarding the provisions of policy 8701, engages in gang, tagger, crew, and/or clique related activity as defined in said policy.
- 4.0 Students identified as being possibly involved in activity related to gangs, taggers, crews, and/or cliques are served by programs which enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in wholesome activities, and promote membership in authorized student organizations.

Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students and staff which such related activity poses shall be provided in September by the site administrator and School Management and Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T.) Coordinator to all staff. The presentations shall provide training in current identification symbols used by students involved in activities related to gangs, taggers, crews, and/or cliques and shall include the identification of hand signals, apparel, jewelry, and any other significant related materials/information.

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Legal References:

California Constitution

Article I, Section 28(c): Right to Safe Schools

Education Code

32050	Hazing (defined)
32051	Hazing
35291.5	Discipline Rules
48900	Suspension and Expulsion
48900.5	Suspension
48907	Student Freedom of Speech and Press

Board of Trustees

July 12, 1990

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Revised: April 1998

References Reviewed: November 2003

Revised: September 2005

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