

Students

Gangs

The Governing Board desires to keep district schools free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups who exhibit behavior disruptive to the school environment and/or the safety and well-being of students. The Board additionally desires to provide support and intervention to students who are members of gangs to enable them to successfully disengage from gang involvement and be successful in school.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3513.4 - Drug and Alcohol Free Schools)
(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies for gang prevention that address the reasons that students may become involved in gangs, including the identity, recognition, or status achieved as being part of a gang, protection from gang violence in the community, the need for companionship and an extended family, intimidation to join a gang, desire to join a gang to be in a position to intimidate others, and/or connection with criminal activity.

Gang violence prevention shall start as early as possible and include, but not be limited to, age-appropriate education that focuses on developing emotional and social competence, increasing prosocial peer bonds, strengthening attachment and commitment to school, and enhancing cooperative learning skills. Prevention shall also include improving parent/guardian involvement in and support for their children's academic progress, as well as ongoing gang awareness education for parents/guardians, including gang identifiers.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Involvement)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

The Superintendent or designee shall take steps to deter gang activity on school campuses, including threats and intimidation of students and staff, recruitment or intimidation of students to join gangs, bullying, fighting, criminal activities, and confrontations between members of different gangs.

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school rules of conduct and any school dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel are enforced consistently. If a student exhibits signs of gang affiliation, staff shall so inform the principal or designee and the student's parent/guardian.

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide in-service training which helps staff to identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior. Staff shall be informed about conflict management techniques and alerted to intervention measures and community resources. The Superintendent or designee shall also provide staff development on social and emotional learning, classroom management, interactive teaching, and cooperative learning skills.

Gangs (Cont.)

(cf. 4131, 4231, 4331 - Staff Development)

The Superintendent or designee may consider gang activity prevention and intervention when developing programs outside of the school day.

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.2 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)
(cf. 5148.3 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with child welfare services, mental health agencies, social services, and local law enforcement authorities in the prevention and intervention of gang activity.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32282 School safety plans
35183 Gang-related apparel
48907 Student exercise of free expression
48950 Student freedom of speech
51264 Educational in-service training; CDE guidelines
51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention in-service training
51266-51266.5 Model gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum

PENAL CODE

186.22 Participation in criminal street gang
13826-13826.7 Gang violence suppression

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7101-7122 Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Management Resources:

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

Why Young People Join Gangs

NATIONAL GANG CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Strategic Planning Tool

Gangs in Schools, March 2019

Parents' Guide to Gangs, July 2015

WEB SITES

California Cities Gang Prevention Network: <http://www.ccgpn.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lr/ss/sa>

Gang Resistance Education and Training: <http://www.great-online.org/GREAT-Home>

Los Angeles Police Department, Gangs:

http://www.lapdonline.org/get_informed/content_basic_view/1396

Homeboy Industries: <http://homeboyindustries.org>

National Gang Center: <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov>

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Students

Gangs

Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Measures

The Superintendent or designee shall become informed of the gang history in the district and community, conduct assessments of current gang activity at the school sites, and document and follow up on gang-related incidents.

In order to discourage the influence of gangs, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. Any student suspected of gang affiliation based on the display of behavior, gestures, apparel, or paraphernalia shall be referred to the principal or designee, and the following actions taken, as appropriate:
 - a. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff in order to proactively address the concern and be included as part of the solution.
 - b. The student may be sent home to change clothes if necessary.

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)
 - c. The student's behaviors and progress in school shall be documented, including attendance and grades.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)
(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
 - d. Intervention techniques such as mentoring, academic support, and a system of wraparound support service shall be implemented to help the student disengage from gang involvement.
 - e. Consistent and graduated discipline and accountability shall be implemented when appropriate and combined with positive support using conflict-resolution strategies and other restorative justice practices demonstrated to be effective with gang-involved youth.
 - f. Students shall be offered help in rejecting gang associations, including possible referral to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.
 - g. Law enforcement shall be notified if the student is suspected of being involved in gangs.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
2. Any graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down, or painted over as soon as discovered. Graffiti shall be documented and photographed before it is removed. These photographs shall be shared with local law enforcement authorities and used in future disciplinary or criminal action against the offenders. This information can also be used to determine whether a threat or incident is imminent.

Gangs (Cont.)

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)
(cf. 5131.5 - Vandalism and Graffiti)

3. Classroom and after-school programs may include gang prevention lessons that are taught jointly by teachers, counselors, law enforcement, and/or other organizations that are knowledgeable about gang prevention and shall:

- a. Provide social and emotional learning designed to enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of constructive activities
- b. Explain the dangers of gang membership
- c. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
- d. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in gang avoidance skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anti-bullying, anger management, acceptance, and mediation skills

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

- e. Assign individual gang members to cooperative learning groups in which they may work toward common goals with students who are not members of their gang
- f. Provide school-to-career instruction
- g. Provide positive interaction with local law enforcement

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

4. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized school clubs and student organizations, sports and cultural activities and affiliations with the local community, and community service projects which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging.

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)
(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Parent/Guardian and Community Outreach

The Superintendent or designee may offer gang prevention classes or counseling for parents/guardians which may address the following topics:

1. The reasons students join gangs
2. The dangers and consequences of gang membership
3. Warning signs which may indicate that students are at risk of becoming involved with gangs, including the use of social media for gang communication and promotion

Students

Gangs

4. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti
5. Effective parenting techniques and planning family time
6. Conflict resolution techniques

In addition, the Superintendent or designee may offer community programs that address the scope and nature of local gang problems and strategies by which each segment of the community may alleviate gang problems.