

# MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: GANG ACTIVITY

ADOPTED: January 24, 2005

REVISED:

	<p style="text-align: center;">218.5. GANG ACTIVITY</p> <p>1. Purpose The School Board strongly believes that a safe and orderly environment is essential for effective teaching and learning to occur within the school setting.</p> <p>The School Board is aware of gang activity occurring outside of school, and wants to deter gangs from having any presence within the district's schools. The presence of gangs creates the potential of students feeling intimidated at school and substantial disruptions of the educational process. To ensure a safe and orderly school environment, the Board prohibits gang activity on school property, at school-sponsored or school-related activities, while traveling to or from school or school activities, or on school vehicles.</p> <p>2. Definitions A <b>gang</b> is defined as an ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons known by a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of violent, illegal, threatening or intimidating acts inside or outside of school.</p> <p>3. Guidelines The school district may consider a student to be a member of or affiliated with a gang, when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The student admits to gang membership.</li> <li>2. The student's parent/guardian identifies the student as a gang member.</li> <li>3. The student regularly associates with known gang members and adopts the gang's style of dress, hand signs, symbols or other indicia of membership or affiliation.</li> <li>4. Law enforcement authorities provide or confirm information leading the school administration to have a reasonable belief of a student's gang membership or affiliation.</li> </ol>
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Prohibitions

Prohibited gang activity under this policy shall include:

1. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing or displaying clothing, apparel, jewelry, accessories or manners of grooming in a manner intended to indicate gang membership or affiliation. Intent may be established by conduct and does not need to be admitted by the student.
2. Communicating through the use of gestures, handshakes, expressions, signs or nicknames in a manner intended to indicate gang membership or affiliation. Intent may be established by conduct and does not need to be admitted by the student.
3. Writing, inscribing or displaying gang-related graffiti, messages, or symbols on school buildings, furniture, equipment or other property.
4. Soliciting individuals to become members or affiliates of a gang.
5. Harassing, threatening or intimidating conduct by a gang member that prevents or adversely impacts an individual's ability to participate in school or school activities.

Each building principal shall be responsible for enforcing the policy in his/her school.

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension, expulsion or other action.

This policy shall not preclude a student from being disciplined under other policies or disciplinary rules applicable to other forms of student misconduct.

Gang Prevention Activities

The district seeks to eliminate the presence of gangs within its schools through prevention and intervention programs, including but not limited to:

1. Staff in-service programs regarding gang activities and current methods of gang identification.

2. Students identified as possible gang members may be referred to the student assistance program. The referral is to offer the student counseling to enhance self-esteem, and encourage interest and participation in positive character-building activities inside and outside of school.
3. The use of an “Anti-Gang Behavior” contract between the student, parent/guardian and school official to establish a plan to deter a student’s continued involvement in gang activities.

Notification

Each building principal is responsible for communicating with students, parents/guardians and other relevant community members regarding this policy.

1. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to annually apprise secondary students of this policy.
2. A parent/guardian shall be notified when a student is suspected of gang membership or affiliation.
3. Law enforcement authorities shall be informed of gang-related activities occurring in school as otherwise permitted by law.