

GANG ACTIVITY

Descriptor: JICF Issued: Draft 7/6/2011
Rescinds: JICF Issued: 07/09/2002

The Tupelo Public School District is committed to providing a safe learning environment **that is conducive for teaching and learning** for its students and staff. With respect to gang activity, the District will do all it can to prevent such activity in the schools and at school activities.

Secret organizations/gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities that threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on school grounds or disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the desired school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

Activities involving initiations, hazings, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited. Any student who participates on school grounds or at school-related activities in such organizations may be subject to disciplinary action ranging from informal conversation to expulsion from school in accordance with Board policy and state law.

No student may wear apparel, nor participate in activities, acts or behavior which would:

- Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts, or other attributes are gang related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives;
- Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff or other employees;
- Create an atmosphere in which a student, staff, or other person's well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture or threat of violence; or
- Imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design, **and/or** emblem upon any school or personal property or on one's person.

If the student's behavior or other attribute is in violation of these provisions, the principal or designee shall request the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuses, the parent/guardian will be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal shall take appropriate corrective and disciplinary action.

Students identified as being gang involved, influenced or affiliated shall be provided information on assistance and programs which discourage gang involvement or affiliation, enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in school or other positive activities and promote membership in authorized school organizations.

Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students, staff and school property may be provided on an as-needed basis. Additional presentations shall be made available to individual schools, staff or students at the request of the principal. Presentations shall provide training in current identification symbols used by those involved in gang-related activity and shall include things such as the identification of hand signals, apparel, jewelry, and/or other pertinent gang-related information.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

MCA §§ 97-44-3; 97-3-105

FORMS

None

DRAFT