

UNAUTHORIZED GROUPS**A. Purpose and Scope**

The Governing Board desires to give school sites and district guidelines that keep schools free from threats and harmful influence of any unauthorized group activity which advocate drug use, disruptive behavior, such as, but not limited to violence, intimidation, threats, coercion, congregating in mass.

B. Prevention and Intervention Measures

In order to discourage the influence of unauthorized groups, school staff shall take the following measures:

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel or paraphernalia indicative of unauthorized group affiliation shall be referred to the principal or designee.

a. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff.

b. The student may be sent home to change clothes if necessary.

2. Staff members shall be provided with the names of known unauthorized group members.

3. Students who seek help in rejecting unauthorized group associations may be referred to community-based unauthorized group suppression and prevention organizations.

4. Any unauthorized group graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.

a. Daily checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus.

b. Graffiti shall be 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.

5. Classroom and after-school programs at each school shall be designed to enhance individual self esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of constructive activities. These programs shall also:

a. Explain the dangers of unauthorized group membership

b. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students

c. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in unauthorized group avoidance skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anger management, ethnic/cultural tolerance, and mediation skills

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

Unauthorized group prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement staff.

6. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging, including:

- a. Positive sports and cultural activities and affiliations with the local community
- b. Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

Community Outreach

Unauthorized group prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:

- 1. The dangers of unauthorized group membership
- 2. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with unauthorized groups
- 3. The nature of local unauthorized group apparel and graffiti
- 4. Effective parenting techniques
- 5. Conflict resolution techniques

C. Discipline Process

Staff will use the following techniques and procedures to discourage the influence of unauthorized groups:

- 1. Upon a first offense, when a student causes, attempts to cause or threatens to cause physical injury to another student as a part of any unauthorized group activity, the following shall result:
 - a. Parent/guardian contact.

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- b. A five (5) day suspension and recommendation for an expulsion for a minimum period of nine (9) weeks.
 - c. A requirement that the student must apply for readmission to school after he/she has served the minimum expulsion period.
 - d. A recommendation for a rehabilitation program that is subject to review at a time of application for readmission. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (i) Community Service minimum of 20 hours - maximum of 80 hours, to be recommended by the District Discipline Review Board based upon the seriousness of the violation of the Education Code.
 - (ii) A minimum of eight (8) weeks of counseling.
 - (iii) Prohibited from violating any of the sub-sections (a) through (q) contained in Education Code 48900 associated with school attendance.
 - (iv) Prohibited from participating in unauthorized group related activities, flying colors, or displaying unauthorized group paraphernalia.
 - e. A recommendation for an extension of the suspension to the expulsion hearing date.
 - f. Unauthorized Group Contract
2. Upon a first offense, when a student causes, attempts to cause physical injury to classified or certificated staff member as part of any unauthorized group activity, the following shall result:
- a. Parent/guardian contact.
 - b. A five (5) day suspension and recommendation for an expulsion for a minimum period of the balance of the semester in which the violation occurred plus one additional semester.
 - c. A requirement that the student must apply for readmission to school after he/she has served the minimum expulsion period.

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- d. A recommendation for a rehabilitation program that is subject to review at the time of application for readmission. The plan shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (i) Community Service minimum of 20 hours - maximum of 80 hours, to be recommended by the District Discipline Review Board based upon the seriousness of the violation of the Education Code.
 - (ii) A minimum of eight (8) weeks of counseling.
 - (iii) Prohibited from violating any one of the sub-sections (a) through (q) contained in Education Code 48900 associated with school attendance.
 - (iv) Unauthorized Group Contract and Law Enforcement Contact.
 - e. Contact with law enforcement agency.
3. Upon a first offense, when a student wears or carries any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook, or makes gestures that symbolize unauthorized group membership, the following shall result:
 - a. Referral to the principal or designee.
 - b. Student sent home to change clothes or provided with alternative clothing.
 - c. Confiscation of unauthorized group related jewelry, accessory, notebook, etc.
 - d. Parent/guardian contact.
 - e. Documented counseling with a “No Unauthorized Group Contract” and Law Enforcement contact.
 4. A second offense *of #3* above will result in the following:
 - a. Parent/guardian conference.
 - b. One to five day suspension.
 5. A third offense will result in the following:
 - a. Parent/guardian contact.
 - b. A minimum five day suspension.
 - c. Contact with law enforcement agency.
 - d. Possible recommendation for expulsion.
 6. A fourth and subsequent offenses will result in the following:
 - a. Parent/guardian contact.
 - b. A minimum five day suspension and recommendation for expulsion
 - c. Contact with law enforcement agency.
 - d. Possible recommendation for expulsion.

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7. Any unauthorized group graffiti on school premises shall be removed, washed down or painted over as soon as discovered.
 - a. Daily checks for graffiti shall be made throughout the campus, including restroom walls and doors.
 - b. Graffiti shall 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.
8. Classroom and after-school programs at each school shall be designed to enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of positive activities.
9. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging.
10. Each school within the Districts shall develop an action plan that includes but is not limited to the following.
 - a. Inservice for all staff on signs and symptoms of unauthorized group activity.
 - b. Techniques and procedures to discourage the influence of unauthorized groups.
 - c. Campus safety and supervision.
 - d. Unauthorized group prevention education.
 - e. Outreach program for students identified as unauthorized group-oriented students as well as actual members of existing unauthorized groups.
 - f. Parent support program.

Unauthorized Group Prevention Education

1. Explain the dangers of unauthorized group membership
2. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution and unauthorized group avoidance skills.
3. Promote constructive activities available in the community.

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4. Involve students in structured, goal-oriented community service projects.
5. Encourage positive school behavior.

Unauthorized group prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers, law enforcement staff, and contracted organizations.

Community Outreach

Unauthorized group prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:

1. The dangers of unauthorized group membership.
2. The nature of local unauthorized group 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 an unauthorized group.
5. Resources available to them for further assistance.

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

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

Intervention Measures

Staff shall make every effort to engage unauthorized group-oriented students into the academic, extra-curricular and social mainstream and into work experience programs. To this end:

1. Staff members shall be provided with updated information regarding unauthorized group activities which advocate drug use, disruptive behavior, such as but not limited to violence, intimidation, threats, coercion, congregating in mass.
2. Classroom teachers shall refer individual unauthorized group oriented students for individual and/or group counseling.

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3. Students who seek help in rejecting unauthorized group associations may be referred to community-based unauthorized group suppression and prevention organizations.

C. Forms Used and Other References

None

D. Procedure

Outlined in school discipline handbooks and consistent with Board Policy.

E. Reports Required

Suspension Documents

Expulsion Documents

F. Record Retention

Expulsion Documents

G. Responsible Administrative Unit

Student Services

H. Approved by the Administrator of the Division

Educational Services