

SECRET SOCIETIES/GANG ACTIVITY

Code **JICF** Revised **3/13**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the district's prohibition of student secret societies and gang activities.

The district administration will maintain conditions on school property and at school – sponsored events in order to ensure as safe an environment as possible for students and staff in accordance with law and the standards set by the board. In establishing such standards, the board prohibits the presence and activities of gangs on or near school property and at school-sponsored events.

The board finds that gangs that initiate advocate or promote activities threatening the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or gangs that disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The district prohibits the use of hand signals, graffiti or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming that, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute indicates or implies membership or affiliation with a group that presents a clear and present danger contrary to the school environment and educational objectives.

The district prohibits incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities of such group affiliations that are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students.

The administration will establish procedures and regulations to ensure the discipline of any student wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia, exhibiting behavior or gestures that symbolize gang membership, or causing or participating in activities that intimidate or affect the attendance of another student.

The administration will provide inservice training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk and promote membership in authorized school groups or activities as an alternative.

Adopted 2/7/12; Revised 3/4/13

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended

1. Section 59-63-270 – Regulation or prohibition of clubs or like activities.
2. Section 59-63-275 – Student hazing prohibited; definitions.