

POLICY ON GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

It shall be the policy of the Lyon County Board of School Trustees to provide a gang-free educational environment within each of its schools.

Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which 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 which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

The type of dress, apparel, activities, acts, behavior or manner of grooming displayed, reflected, or participated in by the student shall not:

- 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, and 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, 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 will request the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuses, the parent/guardian may be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal will take appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action. Where appropriate, law enforcement officials will be involved in seeking ways to assure no disruption of the school learning climate (Lyon County School District Student Discipline Policy # JGA Section A).

Incidents involving initiations, hazings, intimidations, and/or related activities of 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 wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia, or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership, or causing and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the

attendance of another student shall be subject to disciplinary action (Lyon County School District Student Discipline Policy JGA Section B).

Students identified as being gang involved, influenced, or affiliated will be provided assistance, and/or 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 groups and/or activities as an alternative.

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

Policy #JFC
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