

Students

Gang Activity or Association

The Board of Education has determined that the presence of gangs and gang activities can cause a substantial disruption or interference with school and school activities. “Gang” means a group that identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance, or language, including hand signs, the claiming of geographical territory, or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity. By this policy, the Board prohibits gangs and gang activities at school activities and on school premises.

After consulting with parents, teachers, students, local community and state agencies, the District will develop a comprehensive program that addresses gang involvement and related violent activities. The comprehensive program will be coordinated with the District’s drug and alcohol health education program.

Gang Prevention and Intervention Program

The District will develop within available resources, a plan to include:

1. An assessment of the nature and extent of gang involvement, violent activities, and drug abuse by students in the district.
2. An assessment of the impact of the gang involvement, violent activities, and drug abuse on attendance and educational achievement by students of the district.
3. A summary of the extent and type of needs to reduce gang involvement, violent activities, and drug abuse by the students, which shall minimally include:
 - a. Strategies to reduce drug activities, violent activities, and drug abuse.
 - b. Methods to communicate conflict resolution skills for staff and students.
 - c. Strategies to keep staff, students, parents, and the public informed about the district’s comprehensive gang prevention and intervention policy and related activities.
4. In-service training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at risk and promote membership in authorized school groups and activities as an alternative.

Legal Reference: *Tinker v. Des Moines Community School District*
393 U.S. 503 (1969)
Jeglin v. San Jacinto Unified School District
(827F. Supp. 1459-C.D.Ca. 1993)
Olesen v. Board of Education School District No. 228
(676F. Supp. 820-N.D. Ill. 1987)

Policy adopted: August 11, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut

Students

Gang Activity or Association

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

1. 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 education objectives. No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall: wear, possess, use distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang;
2. Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff, and other employees;
3. 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; including but not limited to:
 - soliciting others for membership into any gangs;
 - requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
 - committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies; or
 - inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.
4. Imply gang membership or affiliation by gesture, handshakes, etc., and written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design, emblem upon any school or personal property or on one's person.

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

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 organizations.

Students

Gang Activity or Association (continued)

Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students, staff, and school property which gang-related activity poses, shall be provided 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 activities and will include things such as the identification of hand signals, apparel, jewelry, and/or any other pertinent gang-related information.