

Title: Gang Prevention and Intervention

Effective Date: 6/13/18

References: 53E-3-509

Purpose

The Ignite Entrepreneurship School Board strives to create a safe, orderly, caring and inviting school environment. Gangs and gang-related activities have proven contrary to that mission and are prohibited within the schools. The violence and crime that accompany gangs pose a serious threat to the safety of students and employees of the school system. Even absent acts of violence or crime, the existence of gang-related activity within the schools creates an atmosphere of fear and hostility that obstructs student learning and achievement. Thus, the board condemns the existence of gangs and will not tolerate gang-related activity in the school system.

Policy

1. The Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy administrators, faculty, and staff are mindful of at-risk youth and are trained to recognize early warning signs for youth in trouble and will report suspected gang activity to the Director and law enforcement.
2. A gang is defined as a group of three or more individuals with a unique name, identifiable marks or symbols, who may claim a territory or turf, associate on a regular basis, and who engage in criminal, antisocial behavior, or interfere with the normal orderly operation of the school.
3. Gang activities are prohibited in school and at extra-curricular or school related activities as is the wearing of gang paraphernalia or apparel that identifies a student as a gang member.
4. Students aligning themselves with gangs or engaging in gang activities may be suspended or expelled from school.
5. Gang paraphernalia or apparel will be confiscated by school officials and not returned.
6. IEA faculty and staff reserve the right to interpret whether attire is appropriate.
7. The IEA Director and other school personnel designated by the administration shall have authority to identify student behavior as gang-related and may be allowed under board policy to treat such designated behavior as imminently dangerous to students and staff and follow the procedures outlined in this policy for disciplining students involved in gang-related activities.
8. In disciplining students under gang-related provisions, IEA administrators shall act consistently with and be sensitive to Constitutional protections of freedom of expression and freedom of association.

9. Students and parents/legal guardians should be given notice that courts have determined that the parameters of freedom of expression and freedom of association in a public school setting are different than in society generally.
10. Indices of gang-related behavior or association may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, tattoo, badge, symbol, sign or other items which evidence membership in a gang;
 - b. Use of name associated with or attributed to a gang;
 - c. Designation of turf or an area for gang activities or occupation or ownership; or
 - d. Any combination of the preceding indices or activities.

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