

Gangs

The Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) desires to keep its schools free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which exhibit drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior. The County Superintendent or designee shall take steps to deter gang intimidation of students and staff and confrontations between members of different gangs. S/he shall exchange information and establish mutually supportive efforts with local law enforcement authorities.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide in-service training to help staff identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior. Staff shall be informed about conflict management techniques and alerted to intervention measures and community resources.

SCOE realizes that students become involved in gangs for many reasons, such as peer pressure, the need for a sense of belonging, and lack of refusal skills. Age-appropriate gang violence prevention education shall start with students in the early elementary grades and may start in kindergarten.

To further discourage the influence of gangs, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that school rules of conduct and any school dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel are enforced consistently. If a student exhibits signs of gang affiliation, staff shall so inform the parent/guardian.

Prevention and Intervention Measures

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

1. Any student displaying behavior, gestures, apparel, or paraphernalia indicative of gang 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 gang members.
3. Students who seek help in rejecting gang associations may be referred to community-based gang suppression and prevention organizations.
4. Any gang 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 gang membership
 - b. Provide counseling for targeted at-risk students
 - c. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in gang avoidance skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anger management, ethnic/cultural tolerance, and mediation skills

Policy 5136 (Continued)

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

Gang prevention classes or counseling may be offered for parents/guardians in collaboration with local law enforcement and shall address the following topics:

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

Community programs shall address:

- 1. The scope and nature of local gang problems
- 2. Strategies by which each segment of the community may alleviate gang problems

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35183 Gang-related apparel
- 32282 School safety plans
- 41510-41514 School Safety Consolidated Competitive Grant
- 48907 Student exercise of free expression
- 51264 Educational inservice training; CDE guidelines
- 51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice training
- 51266-51266.5 Model gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum

PENAL CODE

- 186.22 Participation in criminal street gang
- 13826-13826.7 Gang violence suppression

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

Policy Cross-Reference:

- 0450 Comprehensive Safety Plan
- 1020 Youth Services
- 3515 Campus Security

Policy 5136 (Continued)

Policy Cross-Reference: (Continued)

- 5131.4 Student Disturbances
- 5131.5 Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti
- 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
- 5132 Dress and Grooming
- 5137 Positive School Climate
- 6142.4 Service Learning/Community Service Classes
- 6145 Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities
- 6145.2 Athletic Competition
- 6164.2 Guidance/Counseling Services