

**GANGS**

The Governing Board desires to keep district schools and students free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs, which exhibit drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior. The Superintendent or designee shall take steps to deter gang intimidation of students and staff and confrontations between members of different gangs. He/she shall exchange information and establish mutually supportive efforts with local law enforcement authorities.

(cf. 3515.5 – Crime Data Reporting)  
 (cf. 5131.4 - Campus Disturbances)  
 (cf. 5131.7 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide inservice training which helps staff to 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.

**Prevention Education**

The Board realizes that many 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 in the schools may start with students in Kindergarten.

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

(cf. 0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)  
 (cf. 5132 – Dress and Grooming)  
 (cf. 6164.2 – Guidance/Counseling Services)

## Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE  
 32230-32239 School Violence Reduction Program  
 35183 Gang -related apparel  
 35294.1 School safety plans  
 48907 Student exercise of free expression  
 51264 Educational inservice training; SDE guidelines  
 51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice training  
 51266-51266.5 Model gang and substance abuse prevention curriculum  
 58700-56707 Gang risk intervention program  
 PENAL CODE  
 186.22 Participation in criminal street gang  
 13826-13826.7 Gang violence suppression  
 PUBLIC LAW 107-110: 4001-4304 Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act

## Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS: On Alert: Gang Prevention in School and Inservice Guidelines, January 1994  
 CSBA PUBLICATIONS  
 Protecting Our Schools: Governing Board Strategies to Combat School Violence, 1995

Policy  
 adopted: February 10, 2004

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 Pico Rivera, California

**GANGS**

**Prevention and Intervention Measures**

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

1. Any student wearing or carrying overt gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership shall be referred to the principal or designee. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff, and the student sent home to change clothes if necessary.

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

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.

(cf. 1020 – Youth Services)

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.

(cf. 3515 – Campus Security)

(cf. 5131.5 – Vandalism, Theft and Graffiti)

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 violence skills and nonviolent conflict resolution, including communication skills, anger management, ethnic/cultural tolerance, and mediation skills.
  - 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.

(cf. 6030 – Integrated Academic and Vocational Instruction)

(cf. 5137 – Positive School Climate)

Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement staff.

**GANGS (continued)**

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

(cf. 6145 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)  
(cf. 6145.2 – Athletic Competition)  
(cf. 6142-4 – Learning through Community Service)

**Community Outreach**

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians shall address the following topics:

1. The dangers of gang membership.
2. Warning signs which 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.