

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 400

Policy Title . . . YOUTH GANGS

Code No. 443.8

The Burlington Area School District recognizes that a school must create and maintain a safe and orderly environment in which learning can take place. The presence of gangs, gang affiliations and gang related activities within a school disrupts that learning environment by threatening the safety of students, staff, and parents in the school building and causing a disruption to and interference with the academic process.

As a result of those beliefs, The Burlington Area School District hereby bars all gangs, gang affiliations and gang related activities from school buildings, school related activities and school property at all times. A "gang" is defined as any identifiable group or club which exists without the sponsorship of the school or the sponsorship of any recognized adult community or civic organization and which engages in antisocial or criminal behavior activity.

Regulations shall be developed by building administrators for the implementation of this policy.

Date of Adoption:
July 8, 1996
Reviewed:
May 12, 2008

Legal Reference: Code of WI
120.13 (1), 947.01, 947.013, Chapter 948,
Cross Reference: Policies 443.1;443.6;443.73

STUDENT PERSONNEL

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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Policy Title . . . YOUTH GANGS

Code No. R-443.8

No gang insignia may be worn, possessed, used, distributed, displayed, carried or sold by any student on school grounds or at school related activities at any time. This includes:

- a. hats, caps, jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang
- b. tattoos or other material imprinted on the body that have come to be identified with a gang which are either intended to be permanent or are not easily removed
- c. medallions or other jewelry which identify gang members or gang affiliation or which have come to represent a gang

Students are also not permitted to send gang signs either through their body language or in the manner in which they wear their clothing.

Gangs are not permitted to meet or congregate on school premises or at school related activities at any time. Such meeting or congregation is contrary to, disrupts and interferes with the purpose of an educational institution and will be considered trespassing. Trespassers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The full and free exchange of information between school district administrators and area law enforcement officials will be supported and encouraged.

All school district employees have a responsibility to report to their immediate supervisor any suspected gang related activities. Furthermore, the reporting employee shall be without fear of reprisal from the district as a result of such reporting.

Burlington Area School District employees will receive informational updates on gang related issues as needed.

Disciplinary Actions for Specific Gang Related Activities

Insignia:

Student in violation of the gang insignia prohibition outlined in board policy will be immediately suspended from school for up to five (5) school days until such time as the offensive insignia are either disposed of, removed, or concealed (tattoos). A student must return to school accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the school principal.

Students who refuse to remove or dispose of the insignia will be suspended for up to five (5) school days. A repetition of this offense may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Graffiti:

Any student discovered to have been responsible for gang graffiti on school buildings or property will be suspended from school for up to five (5) school days. A student must return to school accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the school principal.

Any student discovered to be with another student at the time the graffiti is applied will also be suspended from school for up to five (5) school days.

Any students suspected of applying gang graffiti will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Parents/guardians and students will be held liable for the damage and are responsible for paying any costs of having the damage professionally removed and/or repaired.

Attacks:

Any student who is involved in or participates in any gang related attack upon the person of a student or students or school employees during school hours, on the way to/from school, at any school sponsored event, or (in the case of a school employee) at any time if connected with the employee's school responsibilities, will be immediately suspended from school for five (5) school days and will be recommended for expulsion.

Students involved in a gang related attack will be prosecuted for the attack to the fullest extent of the law.

Any threat of attack will be considered an attempt to intimidate and will result in a suspension from school for up to five (5) school days and a possible recommendation for expulsion. A student must return to school accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the school principal. (School Board policy 502.6)

Meetings:

Students found to be congregating or meeting with gangs on school grounds are subject to suspension from school for up to five (5) school days and a possible recommendation for expulsion. A student must return to school accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the school principal.

Recruiting:

Any student found to be recruiting a student for a gang membership or threatening a student for either not joining a gang or wishing to withdraw from a gang shall be suspended for five (5) school days and recommended for expulsion. A student must return to school accompanied by a parent/guardian for a conference with the school principal.

Weapons:

Lockers, book bags, purses, gym bags, coats or jackets or other containers which are brought into the school may be searched at any time by school personnel pursuant to board policy or should they have a reasonable suspicion of the presence of a weapon, mace, tear gas, or other chemical weapon.

Students found to have such a weapon on school property will be subject to School Board policy 443.6 (Weapons and Pepper Spray).