

Shelby County Board of Education
GANGS AND NON-SCHOOL RELATED SOCIAL
CLUBS

6030

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I. PURPOSE

To prohibit the activities of gangs and other organizations that engage in unlawful or delinquent behavior in the Shelby County Schools.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students in the Shelby County Schools.

III. DEFINITIONS

Criminal gang - A formal or informal ongoing organization, association or group consisting of three (3) or more persons that has:

1. As one (1) of its activities the commission of criminal acts; and
2. Two (2) or more members who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

IV. POLICY STATEMENT

Enforcement

The Board prohibits the activities of criminal gangs on school property and at school sponsored events.

In order to discourage and prohibit students from participating in gang activities the Board prohibits students from:

1. Wearing, while on school property or at school-sponsored/sanctioned activities, any type of clothing, apparel or accessory that denotes the students' membership in or affiliation with any criminal gang;
2. Any activity that encourages participation in a criminal gang or facilitates illegal acts of a criminal gang; and
3. Any gang-related conduct that is seriously disruptive to the educational process or endangers persons or property.

A violation of any portion of this policy is grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with the district-wide discipline policy.

Prevention and Intervention

In addition to enforcing disciplinary consequences for gang activity, the Shelby County Schools seeks to support students, schools, and the community by providing gang prevention and intervention services. The District shall implement comprehensive district-wide gang prevention and intervention programs to address the needs of students involved in gangs, students at-risk for gang involvement, and schools and neighborhoods with high gang activity.

The District shall partner with law enforcement agencies to continuously monitor school and neighborhood gang activity and provide ongoing prevention, intervention, and gang awareness training to school staff, parents, and community members.

4. The Board shall request information from the local law enforcement agency regarding criminal gangs and associated criminal gang activity.

The Superintendent shall arrange for all school principals to be trained to recognize local gang signs and symbols. This training will be coordinated with local law enforcement agencies.

Moreover, the District shall seek collaborations with community, faith-based, and law enforcement agencies to provide students with programs on gang awareness, conflict resolution, decision-making, and life skills.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Superintendent (or designee) is responsible for administering this policy.

Legal Reference:

1. TCA 49-6-4215

Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Enforcement

Enforcement

Gang-related activities are prohibited at schools, school activities, and school sponsored events and shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the district-wide discipline policy including expulsion. Gang-related activities may affect students and their ability to be successful in the learning environment. Therefore, alleged victims (or their parent(s)/legal guardian) of harassment, bullying, intimidation, or cyber-bullying shall report these incidents immediately to a teacher, counselor or principal, or via text message to (CRIMES) 274637 and via web at <http://www.tipsubmit.com/>.

Prevention

The department responsible for gang prevention/intervention shall work with community organizations to provide students with school-sponsored and/or community-based gang prevention services. These may include gang awareness services; programs on life skills, conflict resolution and decision-making; mentoring and tutoring programs; and social and recreational activities.

Prevention efforts shall include continuous monitoring of school and neighborhood gang activity, including an annual evaluation conducted in consultation with local law enforcement of the threat to and influence on school children by gangs in the community and targeted prevention programming for areas with high gang concentration. When a substantial threat to or influence on school children by gangs is found, the District will institute gang awareness education for students and their parents in schools in neighborhoods with gang activity or the potential for gang activity. Curriculum around gang-awareness education for elementary and middle school students shall be a part of the regular curriculum for those schools. Prevention efforts shall also include annual and on-going gang awareness training to school staff, parents, and the community. Schools shall also sponsor gang prevention programs.

Intervention

A student who is disciplined for gang-related activity shall participate in intervention services. The student must successfully complete a mandatory gang prevention counseling program before he/she is allowed to return to the home school. Completion of the intervention program shall be evidenced by the student's attainment of measurable and progressive outcomes identified by the Superintendent (designee). Other intervention services may also occur at the student's school. In addition, the district shall provide information on community-based gang intervention and counseling services to parents.