

Maricopa Unified School District Board Policy

Students

Gangs

BP 5136

The Governing Board desires to keep district schools 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. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)
(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

The Superintendent or designee may 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.

The Board 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.

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35183 Gang-related apparel

32282 School safety plans

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

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

(2/94 10/95) 10/96

MUSD Board Adopted: 12/10/15

Maricopa Unified School District

Administrative Regulation

Students

Gangs

AR 5136

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 may be contacted and may be asked to meet with school staff.

b. The student may be 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. 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 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 avoidance 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. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

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

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

- b. Structured, goal-oriented community service projects

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

Community Outreach

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/guardians may 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

(2/94 10/95) 10/96

MUSD Board Adopted: 12/10/15