**WALWORTH POLICY: 443.7**

**YOUTH GANGS**

The Walworth Joint School District #1 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 Walworth Joint School District #1 hereby bars all gangs, gang affiliations, and gang-related activities from our school buildings and school related activities are to be considered neutral territory. 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 activity.

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 anytime. This includes:

a. hats, caps, jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang; and

b. medallions or other jewelry which identify gang members or gang affiliation or which have come to represent a gang.

Students are 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.

A record of all known gangs and members of such gangs will be compiled and held by school personnel. These lists will regularly be shared with law enforcement officials to the extent allowed or required by law.

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

Disciplinary Actions for Specific Gang-Related Activities

Insignia:

Students who refuse to remove or dispose of the insignia will be suspended for up to five (5) school days or until a parent conference can be arranged and held to clear re-admission for the student, whichever occurs first. A repetition of this offense my 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. Any student discovered to be with another student at the time the graffiti is applied may also be suspended from school for up to five (5) school days or until a parent conference can be arranged and held to clear re-admission for the student, whichever comes first. Additionally, parent(s) or guardian(s) and students will be held liable for the damage and are responsible for applying any costs of having the damage professionally removed and/or repaired. A repetition of this offense may result in a recommendation for expulsion.

Attacks:

Any student who is involved in or participated in any gang-related attack upon the person of a student or students or school employee 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 up to five (5) days and may 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.

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 or until a parent conference can be arranged and held to clear re-admission for the student, whichever occurs first.

Recruiting:

Any student found to be recruiting a student for 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 or until a parent conference can be arranged and held to clear re-admission for the student, whichever occurs first.

Weapons

Please refer to Board Policy 443.6

The Walworth Joint District #1 does not discriminate in the methods and practices used with students on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

This policy will be published annually in all District student and staff handbooks.

POLICY ADOPTION: February 21, 2000