

# LCPS POLICY JI- STUDENT EXPRESSION, CONDUCT, AND SAFETY

## IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

### #2- STUDENT VIOLENT ACTS

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guidance is to establish standards for the district regarding areas of student conduct specific to violent acts including but not limited to gang, and/or gang-like activities.

#### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. “*Gang*” means any combination of persons, organized formally or informally, which:
1. Has a common or identifying symbol,
  2. Has particular conduct, status and customs indicative of it, and
  3. Has, as one of its common activities, the commission of illegal acts or violation of LCPS policies.
- B. “*Gang-like activities*” means a pattern of prohibited behavior by a student gang member or members, on or near school grounds, activities or vehicles, around the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation to commit acts which disrupt the educational environment or the orderly operation of the school.
- C. “*Gang membership*” means an organization, which includes but is not limited to “public fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang,” that is comprised wholly or in part of students who seek to perpetuate the gang by taking in additional members from students enrolled in school, with the intent of participating in any illegal or criminal activity.
- D. “*Minor violations*” means violations as determined by the building principal that do not require any form of student behavior contract being issued.
- E. “*Major violations*” means major school policy violations which student behavior contracts are issued.
- F. “*School location*” means a school building, school grounds, school activities or trip destinations, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, and all school-related function settings.
- G. “*School zone*” means any area on the grounds of a school or within a distance of 1,000 feet from the grounds of the school

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- H. *“Violent activities” means* students involved with:
1. acting with or characterized by verbal, written, or physical intimidation,
  2. use of physical force to control, injure, damage, destroy, or
  3. being in possession of or using a weapon.
- I. *“Class III citation” means* a custody/referral citation issued to students by law enforcement officials for violations of specific LCPS policy and regulations.

**III. VIOLENT, AND/OR GANG-LIKE ACTIVITY**

- A. No student shall participate in violent including gang, and/or gang-like activity on school property or during any LCPS-sponsored activity, which includes but is not limited to:
1. Use of any speech, social media, or commission of any act which furthers the interests of any gang, gang activity, or act of violence, including but not limited to:
    - a. solicitation for membership in a gang;
    - b. requesting any person to pay for protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
    - c. committing or inciting any illegal act or violation of LCPS policies;
    - d. inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any person;
    - e. making hand gestures or whistling to signal gang affiliation or action;
    - f. challenging or provoking fights, stare-downs, “mad-dogging”, flashing colors, making verbal remarks, etc.;
    - g. unauthorized marking or writing on school property or on personal items (such as notebooks or backpacks) that may signify gang affiliation;
    - h. engaging in physical confrontations where one or more persons confront another individual or group; and

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- i. using electronic devices such as pagers, iPhones, smart phones, cell phones or other mobile devices to communicate gang activities while on school property.
2. Prohibited participation of students in the following activities:
  - a. Students shall not intentionally cause physical injury to any person, or intentionally behave in such a way as to cause physical injury to any person. Neither reasonable self-defense nor action taken because of a reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person is to be considered an unintentional act.
  - b. Students shall not direct harassing, vulgar, or derogatory remarks toward any person (*see JICKA-R - Harassment, JICFB-R - Bullying and JICFA-R - Hazing*).
  - c. Students shall not willfully or maliciously engage in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or harassed.
  - d. Students shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause destruction of LCPS property or private property located on LCPS property.
3. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, glasses, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other item which is evidence of membership/affiliation in any gang or which is related to potentially violent or illegal activities.
  - a. During the first month of each school year, school principals shall inform their school communities about prohibited items of clothing, jewelry, symbols, etc. Updates to gang attire and/or dress code regulations will be made when necessary and parents will be informed of said changes.
  - b. Clothing, including certain shoes, boots and laces, and other accessories, may be prohibited by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark or other attributes that denote or might reasonably seem to denote membership in gangs or clubs, or which advocate drug use (including alcohol and tobacco), violence or disruptive behavior.
  - c. Specific items of clothing, jewelry and/or any other items of wear and/or symbols – including exposed permanent and temporary tattoos – that are affiliated with gangs and/or denote or might reasonably seem to denote membership in gangs, and which are prohibited, include but not

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limited to:

- i. shirts with only the top button fastened;
  - ii. oversized, baggy and/or saggy clothing; including, but not limited to Dickies-brand work pants worn low;
  - iii. belts that dangle/belt buckles with certain letters or symbols that denote or might reasonably seem to denote membership in gangs;
  - iv. exposed underwear and/or underwear of a specific color that have been determined to denote membership in gangs;
  - v. sports teams clothing/logos that have been determined to denote membership in gangs;
  - vi. rosaries, crosses, or colored beads formed into the shape of a cross, that are visible on the outside of clothing; use of colored beads in shoelaces, key chains, braids, etc.
  - vii. shaved strips in eyebrows;
  - viii. bedroom slippers worn with white socks;
  - ix. bandanas, handkerchiefs, rags worn on the head/neck;
  - x. Old-English lettering/writing on clothing.
- d. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, exposed tattoos, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any words, symbols, or pictures that:
- i. Refer to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or any illegal substance.
  - ii. Are of a sexual nature; or
  - iii. Are obscene, profane, vulgar, or lewd; or
  - iv. Threatens the safety or welfare of any person; or
  - v. Promotes any activity prohibited by district policy or regulation.

Additional articles of clothing, jewelry or objects that are prohibited may be reviewed in Policy JICA: Student Dress and Regulation JICA- R.

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**IV. GRAFFITI**

- A. Upon notification of the LCPS Physical Plant Department, graffiti will be photographed and removed within 24 hours of discovery, or as soon as possible.
- B. Parents/guardians and students are responsible for any student-caused damage to LCPS property. Students found to be responsible for damages will be required to reimburse LCPS for the loss or to make restitution in the form of public service.
  - 1. With the parent/guardian in agreement, the restitution may include a student work assignment and/or monetary restitution.

When the building principal or a director of the building or property that was damaged is unable to reach a satisfactory agreement with the parent/guardian for recovery damages to LCPS property or restitution for the amount of property loss, the LCPS Office of Safety and Security will be contacted for assistance in making appropriate contact with local law enforcement.