

GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

The Wise County School Board recognizes the existence of gangs in the community and the threat they pose to the educational environment. Therefore, students shall not engage in gang activity on school grounds, on school buses or on any school sponsored activity. In addition, students shall not engage in gang activity using the School Division computer system at any time. A gang is defined as any group of three or more persons whose purpose includes:

- commission of illegal acts
- participation in activities that threaten the safety of persons or property
- disruption of the school environment
- creation of an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Students are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy JFC Student Conduct and Regulation JFC Standards of Student Conduct for participating in gang activity. Gang activity is defined as:

- wearing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other thing that is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang;
- committing any act, or using any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (such as gestures or hand-shakes) showing membership or affiliation in a gang;
- using any speech or committing any act in furtherance of the interests of any gang, including: (a) soliciting, hazing and initiating others for membership in any gang, (b) requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person, (c) committing any other illegal act or other violation of school policy and inciting other students to act with physical violence;
- inappropriate congregating, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, degradation, disgrace and/or related activities which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or mental harm to students, employees or visitors.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee, in cooperation with local law enforcement and/or juvenile agencies, develops and regularly updates a regulation listing known gang clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, signs, gestures, handshakes and symbols.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee provides in-service training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk of gang involvement and promote membership in authorized school groups and/or activities as an alternative.

Adopted: September 10, 2013

Amended: July 23, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, as amended, §§ 18.2-46.1, 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-79(2),
§ 22.1-276.01

Cross Refs: IIBEA/GAB Acceptable Computer System Use
JFC Student Conduct
JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct

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The type of dress, apparel, activities, acts, behavior or manner of grooming displayed, reflected, or participated in by the student shall not:

- Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts, or other attributes are gang related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives;
- Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff, and other employees;
- Create an atmosphere in which a student, staff, or other person's well being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture, or threat of violence; or
- Imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design, emblem upon any school or personal property or on one's person.

If the student's behavior or other attribute is in violation of these provisions, the principal or designee will request the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuses, the parent/guardian may be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal will take appropriate corrective and disciplinary action.

Students identified as being gang involved, influenced, or affiliated will be provided assistance, and/or programs which discourage gang involvement or affiliation, enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in school or other positive activities and promote membership in authorized school organizations.

Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students, staff, and school property which gang-related activity poses, shall be provided by security on an as-needed basis. Additional presentations will be made available to individual schools, staff or students at the request of the principal. Presentations will provide training in current identification symbols used by those involved in gang-related activity and will include things such as the identification of hand signals, apparel, jewelry, and/or any other pertinent gang-related information.

Student Strike or Student Disorder

To minimize the disruption of the educational process, to assure the safety of students and faculty, and to protect public property, the administration is authorized to implement the following procedures. At all times the safety of the students shall be uppermost in the minds of those in charge of a building during a time of tension.

1. When there is evidence that an unusual situation may be developing, the principal shall alert police authorities, and notify the superintendent.
2. In the event of a student strike or student disorder, the policy shall be to take firm measures.
3. The building principal or his delegate shall confront the students causing the disturbance. He shall make himself available to meet immediately with the representatives of the students causing the disturbance and shall inform the other students that he expects them to return to their regular classroom routine.
4. If the students fail to abide by such directions, the principal is authorized to suspend those students causing the disturbance and direct them to leave the building with the understanding that they will not be readmitted unless accompanied by a parent or a guardian.
5. If the disruptive students refuse to leave the building and the school grounds after a reasonable time has elapsed in the judgment of the building principal, he shall call in the police authorities.
6. The building principal should clearly state to the disruptive group that upon arrival of the police authorities they are subject to arrest.
7. Should a confrontation of any kind ever develop, the building principal will submit to the superintendent, in writing, a complete report of such incident.

Clubs; Societies; Fraternities

Membership in clubs, societies, fraternities or similar groups may provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

To guide the professional staff and students in these groups, the following guidelines have been set forth by the board:

1. School Clubs and Societies will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized by the school system, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school and during the regular school day, have an approved plan for the selection of members, reestablish aims which are educational, or school interest, or community interest, and meet all those conditions hereinafter set forth for recognized school-sponsored

organizations. The only insignia which may be worn by the students on campus or at school-sponsored events are the letter sweaters (boys and girls), championship jackets, and other pins or emblems approved by the principal.

2. Secret Societies: Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs, is prohibited. School members who participate in such clubs shall be subject to
- a. suspension by the principal, subject to the approval of the superintendent for at least three school days but not more than five days; or expelled, subject to the approval of the board.
 - b. removal by the principal from school offices or teams for the remainder of the school year, subject to the approval of the superintendent.
 - c. removal by the principal from graduating class activities pending review of the case by the principal and superintendent.