

## **Criminal Gang Activity at School**

### Prohibited Conduct

The Board of Education prohibits criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property, or school buses, or at school-sponsored functions.

The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about criminal gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

### Definitions

"Criminal gang" means a group with at least three members that specifically either:

- (1) promotes, sponsors, or assists in; or participates in; or
- (2) requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the criminal offense of battery.

"Gang Activity" means knowing or intentional participation by a student in a criminal gang, or knowing or intentional solicitation, recruitment, enticement, or intimidation of another individual to join a criminal gang.

### Procedures for Reporting and Investigating

A School District employee must report any activity that the employee reasonably believes is criminal gang activity, including criminal gang intimidation or criminal gang recruitment, to the principal and school safety specialist.

The principal or designee shall conduct a thorough and complete investigation for each report of suspected gang activity. The principal or designee, upon consultation with the [superintendent?], may also request the assistance of law enforcement to aid in the investigation.

Each school within School District shall record the number of investigations disposed of internally and the number of cases referred to local law enforcement, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, and gender. Each school shall report this information to the superintendent [by May 15 of each year,] and the superintendent shall submit a written report to the Indiana Department of Education by June 1 of each year, starting in 2017.

### Consequences

A confirmed incident of criminal gang activity is a violation of the School District's code of conduct. The principal or the principal's designee shall respond to criminal gang activity, according to the parameters described in the school's code of conduct, and report such activity to law enforcement.

### Support Services

The principal may provide intervention or relevant support services to a student involved in, or suspected of, being involved in criminal gang activity. The following types of services, including family support services, may be provided:

Refer to counseling;

Enlist parent cooperation and involvement community and faith-based organizations and civic groups;

After-school programs developed in collaboration with other stakeholders; or

Other appropriate action as developed by the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

### Criminal Gang Prevention and Education

The School District shall establish an evidence-based educational criminal gang awareness program for students, employees, and parents that must include information:

- (1) to educate students and parents on the extent to which criminal gang activity exists;
- (2) regarding the negative societal impact that criminal gangs have on the community;
- (3) on methods to discourage participation in criminal gangs; and
- (4) on methods of providing intervention to a child suspected of participating in criminal gang activity.

The School District shall also provide training to employees regarding implementation of this policy.

The superintendent shall ensure that notice of this policy appears in the student handbooks and on the school corporation's website.

Legal References:

IC § 20-19-3-12

IC § 20-26-18

IC § 20-33-9-10.5

IC § 35-45-9-1

Adopted: [date]

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