

**GANG MEMBERSHIP AND  
GANG –RELATED  
ACTIVITIES**

*Date Reviewed/Approved: 04/21/2008*

*Policy Number: 4330*

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*Rescinds Policy Number:*

*Issued:*

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The Orange County School System does not tolerate gang membership or gang-related activity. The Superintendent and/or the district designee shall regularly consult with law enforcement officials to identify gang-related items, symbols and behaviors, and provide each principal with this information. The Orange County School System supports a proactive approach to dealing with gangs and gang-related activities in schools, at school-related events, and in the community. Collaboration among community agencies, local law enforcement agencies, parents, students and school staff is necessary to ensure that our schools remain free of gang-related activity. The district will provide on-going professional development for school personnel on indicators of possible gang-related activities and strategies to prevent gang membership.

A gang is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, or the purposeful violation of any OCS policy, and having a common name identifying sign, colors, or symbols. No student shall commit any act that furthers gangs or gang-related activities. Conduct prohibited by this policy includes:

- A. Wearing, possessing, using distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, visible tattoos and body markings, or other items, or being in possession of literature that show affiliation with a gang, or is evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;
- B. Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.) to convey membership affiliation in any gang or that promotes gang affiliation;
- C. Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with gang or gang-related symbols or slogans;
- D. Requiring payment of protection, money or insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person as related to gang activity;
- E. Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person as related to gang activity;
- F. Soliciting others for gang membership;
- G. Conspiring to commit any violation of this policy or committing or conspiring to commit any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies that relates to gang activity.

Students in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in board policies. School administrators and/or School Resource Officers will collect each suspected gang occurrence in writing. Photographic documentation of gang writings, gang graffiti and gang clothing will be documented. Removal of writings, drawings, graffiti and articles of clothing after documentation should be done as soon as possible. Parents or guardians of students that are suspected of being involved in gang-related activity will receive written and verbal communication from the school.