

Policy

SUSPECTED GANG ACTIVITY

It is the responsibility of the Riverton Board of Education to safeguard the health, character, citizenship and personality development of the students in its schools. The board of education is committed to utilizing strategies that encourage the prevention, intervention, and cessation of gang activities.

Students that initiate, advocate, or promote activities, openly or otherwise, and/or threaten the safety or well-being of others disrupt the school environment and are harmful to the educational process in this school district. Any physical or verbal harassing, intimidating, or bullying conduct by a student or group of students directed toward any school staff member or any other student or group of students anywhere on school grounds, at any school related or sponsored activity, on school buses, and any other place where students are supervised by school district staff will not be tolerated.

In the event the Principal or designee, believe any physical or verbal harassing, intimidating, or bullying conduct was, or is being committed, for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a group of three or more persons, the school staff will investigate further to determine if the conduct was committed by those students representing a criminal street gang (hereinafter referred to as a "gang") as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3.h. If it is determined unacceptable conduct was committed by students representing a gang, the Principal or designee will assign appropriate disciplinary action and will notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the victim and the offender. The Principal/CSA or designee will also inform local law enforcement.

To further ensure the safety and well-being of all students in the district and to increase awareness within the school community regarding potential gang activity, students are prohibited from wearing on school grounds, at any school related or sponsored activity, on school buses, and any other place where students are supervised by school district staff, any type of clothing or accessory that would indicate a student has membership in, or affiliation with, any gang associated with criminal activities pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any student identified as being potentially involved in gang-related activities shall be notified by the Principal or designee. A student identified as being potentially involved in gang-related activities shall be offered appropriate counseling by school district staff.

School staff members shall be provided in-service training on gangs and gang related conduct and activities including, but not limited to, recruitment procedures; threats/intimidation; clothing; insignia; hand signs; symbols; graffiti; terminology; or other indicia of gang association.

Information regarding gangs shall be shared by school district staff to local law enforcement officials and the school district's administrative staff members will encourage local law enforcement to share gang related information with school officials.

Nothing in this policy shall supersede or negate any existing New Jersey law or Board Policy regarding student discipline and/or the school district's student discipline code. This policy shall be made available to school staff, students, and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

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(Continued)

File Code: 5615

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-9
N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3.h.

New Jersey State Police Street Gang Bureau – Know the Signs: A Guide to Gang Identification

FIRST READING: Board of Education Meeting: 10-23-12

SECOND READING & ADOPTION: Board of Education Meeting: 11-27-12