

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

443.7

PROHIBITION OF GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITIES

The De Soto Area School District recognizes that a school must create and maintain a safe and orderly environment in which learning can take place. The presence of gangs, gang affiliations and gang-related activities within a school disrupts that learning environment by threatening the physical safety and emotional and social well-being of students, staff, and parents/guardians in the school building and causing a disruption to and interference with the proper operation of the educational system. Consequently, the Board of Education desires to keep District schools, its students and personnel free from the violent, destructive, seriously disruptive behavior and resulting harmful effects of gangs or gang-related activities.

As a result of those beliefs, the District takes a "zero tolerance" approach, barring all gangs, gang affiliations and gang-related activities from school buildings, school-related activities and school property at all times. A "gang" is defined as any identifiable group or club which exists without the sponsorship of the school or the sponsorship of any recognized adult community or civic organization and which engages in antisocial or criminal behavior activity.

No gang insignia, symbols, or script may be worn, possessed, used, distributed, displayed, carried or sold by any student on school grounds or at school-related activities at any time. This includes:

- a. hats, caps, jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.
- b. tattoos or other material imprinted on the body which are either intended to be permanent or are easily removed.
- c. medallions or other jewelry which identify gang members or gang affiliation or which have come to represent a gang.
- d. symbols or written script on books, book covers, notebooks, paper, posters, lockers, etc.

Students are also not permitted to send gang signs either through their body language or in the manner in which they wear their clothing.

Gangs are not permitted to meet or congregate on school premises or at school-related activities at any time. Such meeting or congregation is contrary to, disrupts and interferes with the purpose of an educational institution and will be considered trespassing. Trespassers shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

A record of all known gangs and members of such gangs shall be compiled and held by school personnel. These lists shall regularly be shared with law enforcement officials to the extent allowed or required by law.

Any student known to be a member of a gang shall be barred from representing the school as a member of an athletic team or as a participant in co-curricular activities until the student proves to the satisfaction of the school principal that he/she either is no longer affiliated with a gang or is no longer a gang member.

The Board further believes that gangs and gang activities are most successfully dealt with on a community-wide basis. The District affirms its intention to work cooperatively with all appropriate community agencies.

All District employees have a responsibility to report to their immediate supervisor any suspected gang-related activities. Furthermore, the reporting employee shall be without fear of reprisal from the District as a result of such reporting.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 895.77(2) Wisconsin Statutes
939.22(9), (9g)
941.38
943.017

CROSS REF.: Co-Curricular Code

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