

**GANGS**

The Governing Board desires to keep District schools and students free from the threats or harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities to share information and provide mutual support in this effort.

The principal or designee shall maintain visible supervision of school premises to deter gang intimidation of students and confrontations between members of different gangs.

*(cf. 5146 - Campus Disturbances)*

1. Any student wearing or displaying gang paraphernalia or making gestures that symbolize gang membership shall be referred to the principal or designee. The student's parent/guardian shall be contacted and the student sent home to change clothes if necessary.
2. Any gang graffiti on school premises shall be quietly removed or painted over as soon as discovered. The principal or designee shall notify local law enforcement authorities, photograph the graffiti, and maintain a file of pictures of such graffiti.
3. Classroom and after-school programs at each site shall be designed to enhance individual self-esteem, provide positive reinforcement for acceptable behavior, and foster interest in a variety of wholesome activities.
4. Staff shall actively promote membership in authorized student organizations which can provide students companionship, safety, and a sense of purpose and belonging.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide inservice training which helps staff to identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities, and respond appropriately to gang behavior. Staff shall be informed about conflict management techniques and alerted to intervention measures and community resources which may help our students.

At the principal's discretion, staff may use the following techniques to discourage the influence of gangs.

**Gang Prevention Education**

Gang prevention instruction shall be offered in CUSD schools and shall:

**GANGS** (continued)

1. Explain the dangers of gang membership.
2. Include lessons or role-playing workshops in nonviolent conflict resolution and gang avoidance skills.
3. Promote constructive activities available in the community.
4. Involve students in structured, goal-oriented community or school service projects.
5. Encourage positive school behavior.
6. Encourage appreciation of America's multi-cultural heritage.

Gang prevention lessons may be taught jointly by teachers and law enforcement staff.

**Community Outreach**

Gang prevention classes or counseling offered for parents/ guardians, staff and community shall address the following topics:

1. The dangers of gang membership.
2. The nature of local gang apparel and graffiti.
3. Ways to deal effectively with their children.
4. Warning signs which may indicate that children are at risk of becoming involved with gangs.
5. The scope and nature of local gang problems.
6. Ways that each segment of the community can help to alleviate these problems.

The Board prohibits the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, notebook or manner of grooming which, by virtue of their color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute, denotes membership in gangs which advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior. This policy shall be applied at the principal's discretion, after consultation with the Superintendent, as the need for it arises at individual school sites.

**GANGS** (continued)

*(cf. 6145.5 - Organizations/Associations)*

*(cf. 5142 - Dress and Grooming)*

*Legal Reference:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

*51264 Educational inservice training*

*51265 Gang violence and drug and alcohol abuse prevention inservice training*

*Penal Code*

*186.22 Participation in criminal street gang*

*13826-13826.7 Gang violence suppression*

Policy  
adopted: August 18, 1997

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Juan Capistrano, California