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| Spectrum Academy Board of Directors | | |
| Policy: Gang Prevention and Intervention | | |
| Approved: June 17, 2020 | Revised: | Monitoring: Bi-Annually |

PURPOSE

To comply with Utah State Code 53E-3-509 (Gang Prevention and Intervention) and R277-436 (Gang Prevention and Intervention in the Schools)

DEFINITIONS

1. A "gang" as defined in this policy means any ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one its primary activities the commission of criminal acts, which has a unique name or identifiable signs, symbols, or marks, and whose members individually or collectively engage in criminal or violent behavior to persons or property, or who create an unreasonable and substantial disruption or risk of disruption of a class, activity, program, or other function of a school.
2. "Gang prevention" means instructional and support strategies, activities, programs, or curricula designed and implemented to provide successful experiences for youth and families.
3. Gang prevention activities shall promote cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationship skills required for school completion and full participation in society.
4. "Gang intervention" means specially designed services required by an individual student experiencing difficulty in cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationships, within or outside of the school, which may impact the individual's susceptibility to gang membership or gang-like activities.
5. "Gang Prevention and Intervention Program" means specifically designed projects and activities to help at-risk students stay in school and enhance their cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationship skills required for school completion and full participation in society.
6. For the purposes of this policy, "gang activities" include, but are not limited to any of the following.
 - a. Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing, jewelry, apparel, emblems, badges, tattoos or manner of grooming, accessories, symbols, signs, or other thing which is evidence of membership in or affiliation with any gang;



- b. Committing any act or omission or using any speech, either verbal or nonverbal, (flashing signs, gestures, hand shakes, etc.) that demonstrates membership in or a affiliation with a gang;
- c. Soliciting others for membership in a gang;
- d. Requesting any person to pay for "protection", claiming "turf", or otherwise intimidating, bullying, retaliating against, threatening, or harassing any person;
- e. Possessing a weapon, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, or other contraband;
- f. Committing any illegal act;
- g. Encouraging or inciting another person to act with physical violence upon any other person or cause damage to property.

POLICY

1. Reporting: school faculty and personnel shall report suspected gang activities relating to the school and its students to a school administrator and law enforcement
2. School faculty and personnel shall be trained by experienced evidence based trainers that may include community gang specialists and law enforcement as part of comprehensive strategies to recognize early warning signs for youth in trouble and help students resist serious involvement in undesirable activity, including joining gangs or mimicking gang behavior
3. Spectrum Academy prohibits the following behavior:
 - a. advocating or promoting a gang or any gang-related activities
 - b. marking school property, books, or school work with gang names, slogans, or signs
 - c. conducting gang initiations
 - d. threatening another person with bodily injury or inflicting bodily injury on another in connection with a gang or gang-related activity
 - e. aiding or abetting an activity described in this section by a person's presence or support
 - f. displaying or wearing common gang apparel, common dress, or identifying signs or symbols on one's clothing, person, or personal property that is disruptive to the school environment
 - g. communicating in any method, including verbal, non-verbal, and electronic means, designed to convey gang membership or affiliation
 - h. Soliciting others for membership in a gang
4. Gang Prevention and Intervention Program
 - a. Spectrum Academy recognizes that our students are at risk for Gang activity. As such, we provide intervention at several levels to reduce gang behavior:
 - i. Facilitation of positive peer group associations through social skills instruction

- ii. Reduction of risk-taking and aggressive behaviors through behavior intervention strategies, mental health support, and self-regulation strategies
 - iii. Education about the risks of substance abuse and gang association
 - iv. Provision of student and family support through connections with community resources
 - v. Preventative and reactive crisis counseling to address trauma experiences
 - vi. Increased academic support to reduce student frustration and disengagement with school
 - vii. Parent education opportunities to increase participation in their child's academic experience
 - viii. Staff education to facilitate early identification of students at risk
 - b. Curriculum
 - i. Update after gang conference
5. Discipline
- a. Students who participates in gang activities may be excluded from participation in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, as determined by the school administration after consultation with law enforcement
 - b. Students who engage in any form of gang activity on or about school property, or at any school activity may be suspended or expelled under the terms of Spectrum Academy's Safe Schools Policy.
 - c. Gang-related graffiti or damage to school property shall result in parent notification and appropriate administrative and law enforcement actions, which may include obtaining restitution from those responsible for the damage
 - d. if a serious gang-related incident, as determined by the school administrator in consultation with local law enforcement, occurs on school property, at school related activities, or on a site that is normally considered to be under school control, notification shall be provided to parents of students in the school:
 - i. informing them, in general terms, about the incident, but removing all personally identifiable information about students from the notice
 - ii. emphasizing the school's concern for safety; and
 - iii. outlining the action taken at the school regarding the incident
 - e. Subject to the search and seizure provisions of this policy, gang paraphernalia, apparel, or weapons may be confiscated by school officials at any time.
6. Consultation with Law Enforcement Authorities: School officials shall consult with local law enforcement authorities and gang detectives whenever they have questions regarding gang-related clothing, apparel, or other gang activity.