

## Students

### Gang Activity and Sororities and Fraternities

Only those student organizations approved by the administration, and to which membership is open to the entire student body, are authorized by the Board of Education to function on school property, school transportation, or in school-related activities.

The Board of Education prohibits the presence of activities on school property, school transportation, or at school-related activities of gangs, secret societies or other organizations which restrict membership, such as fraternities and sororities. Such restrictive groups have no legitimate place in public education. Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process.

No student will be allowed to display or wear any insignia or such an organization or to engage in any activities relating to membership in such an organization while on school property, school transportation or participating in school-related activities. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur. Incidents involving initiations, hazings, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

Any student who violates the provisions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

The administration will establish regulations to enforce the provisions of this policy. These regulations will not deny equal access to secondary school facilities during non-instructional time to any students who wish to meet when the reason for the denial is the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech of such meeting.

The administration will provide service training in gang behavior and characteristics to facilitate staff identification of students at-risk and promote membership in authorized school groups and/or activities as an alternative.

Legal Reference:        *Jeglin v. San Jacinto Unified School District*  
                                   (827F. Supp. 1459-C.D.Ca. 1993)  
                                   *Olesen v. Board of Education School District No. 228*  
                                   (676F. Supp. 820-N.D. Ill. 1987)

Policy adopted:        June 8, 2004

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 Hamden, Connecticut

## **Students**

### **Gang Activity or Associations (Sororities and Fraternities)**

The type of dress, apparel, activities, acts, behavior or manner of grooming displayed, reflected or participated in by the student shall not:

1. Lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts, or other attributes are gang related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or education objectives. No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall: wear, possess, use distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang, fraternity, or sorority;
2. Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff, and other employees;
3. Create an atmosphere in which a student, staff or other person's well-being is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture, or threat of violence; including but not limited to:
  - soliciting others for membership into any gangs, sorority or fraternity;
  - requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person;
  - committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies;
  - inciting other students to act with physical violence upon any other person;
  - implying gang membership or affiliation by gesture, handshakes, etc., and written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design, emblem upon any school or personal property or on one's person.

If the student's behavior or other attribute is in violation of these provision, the principal or designee will request the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuse, the parent/guardian may be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal will take appropriate corrective and disciplinary action.

Students identified as being gang involved, influences, or affiliated will be provided assistance, and/or programs which discourage gang involvement or affiliation, enhance self-esteem, encourage interest and participation in school or other positive activities and promote membership in authorize school organizations.

**Students**

**Gang Activity or Association** (continued)

Training to provide increased awareness of the threat to the safety of students, staff, and school property which gang-related activity poses, shall be provided on an as-needed basis. Additional presentation will be made available to individual schools, staff or students at the request of the principal. Presentations will provide training in current identification symbols used by those involved in gang-related activity and will include things such as the identification of hand signal, apparel, jewelry, and/or any other pertinent gang-related information.