



SECTION: 506

TITLE: GANGS

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1	PURPOSE	The Board recognizes the importance of providing a safe learning and working environment for students, employees, and visitors and that the presence of gang activity threatens the safety of the school environment.	1
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4	DEFINITION	For purposes of this policy, a gang shall be defined as three (3) or more individuals with a common interest, bond, or activity which are associated with criminal activities or whose purpose includes the commission of illegal acts; and who refer to themselves by a group name or designation. This definition shall also include what is commonly known as a hate group.	4
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10	AUTHORITY	The Board prohibits gang activity on school property or at any school-sponsored activity or during the time the student is traveling to or from school.	10
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13	GUIDELINES	The school district may consider a student to be a member of or affiliated with a gang, when:	13
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15		1. The student admits to gang membership.	15
16		2. The student's parent/guardian identifies the student as a gang member.	16
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18		3. The student regularly associates with known gang members and adopts the gang's style of dress, hand signs, symbols or other indicia of membership or affiliation.	18
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20		4. Law enforcement authorities provide or confirm information leading the school administration to have a reasonable belief of a student's gang membership or affiliation.	20
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24		No student may engage in the behavior or actions below whether or not she/he is connected with a gang.	24
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26		1. Wearing, possessing, using, distribution, displaying or selling of any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, tattoos or manner of grooming, or other item which indicates or implies membership in, or affiliation with, any gang and/or is representative of any gang.	26
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30		2. Commission of any act or omission, or the use of any speech, either verbal or nonverbal (gestures, handshakes, etc.), which indicates or implies membership in or affiliation with any gang, and/or is representative of any gang.	30
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34		3. Use of any speech, or committing any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to:	34
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IMPLEMENTATION

- Soliciting others for membership in any gangs.
- Requesting any person to pay for protection or otherwise intimidating or threatening, hazing, or harassing any person.
- Committing any illegal act or violation of school district policies.
- Inciting another person to act with physical violence upon any other person or to cause damage to property.
- Painting, writing or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, insignias or signs on school property.

A student or school district employee shall report all suspected signs of gang activity to his/her administrator. In determining whether acts are gang related, administrators are to exercise discretion and judgment based upon current circumstances in their school and surrounding neighborhood and the definition of gang set forth in this policy.

The administration and staff shall devise a schedule of penalties for engaging in activities in violation of this policy for inclusion in the Student Code of Conduct.

Gang clothing, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols or signs shall be determined by school administrators. District administrators shall consult with police, the district attorney, the district's office of pupil services or any other organization, as needed, to help them determine what is gang-related. All incidents of suspected gang-related activity shall be communicated to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Administration shall report all incidents consistent with procedural guidelines.

JR/sab
Approved: 5/2010
Rev/App: 6/2010

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