

Students

Activities

Youth Gangs

The Watertown Unified 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 safety of students, staff and parents in the school building and causing a disruption to and interference with the academic process.

As a result of those beliefs, the Watertown Unified School District bans, 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: "A formal or informal ongoing organization, association or group of three or more individuals or persons who:
 - 1. Have a common name or common identifying signs, colors or symbols;
 - 2. Have a common interest and/or activity characterized by the commission of or involvement in, a pattern of criminal or delinquent conduct;
 - 3. Are generally perceived by others or themselves as being a denotable group, association or organization.

- B. No gang insignia 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, but is not limited to: literature, photographs, hats, caps, jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.

- C. Tattoos or other material imprinted on the body which are either intended to be permanent or are easily removed will not be allowed to be displayed by any student on school grounds or at school related activities at any time.

- D. Medallions or other jewelry which identify gang members or gang affiliation or which have come to represent a gang may not be worn, possessed, used, distributed, displayed, carried or sold by any student on school grounds or at school-related activities at any time.

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

- F. 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 will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

- G. Activities including recruitment, initiations, hazing, intimidation, retaliation and/or related activities which could potentially cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or

disgrace and result in physical or mental harm to students will not be allowed on school grounds or at school related activities at any time.

- H. Any other attributes that lead school officials to reasonably believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts or other attributes are association related and would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or education objectives will not be allowed on school grounds or at school-related activities at any time.

All District employees have the 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.

If an administrator verifies a student's involvement in gang activity, the parent or guardian will be informed and referred to an appropriate social service agency, or other community resource.

A record of all known gang activity on school grounds or at school-related activities will be compiled and held by school personnel. This record will contain the names of all those involved in known gang activity. These records will be maintained by the building administrator as confidential behavioral records pursuant to Wisconsin's pupil records law, Wis. Stat. 118.125, and shall only be disclosed as authorized by law.

Nothing in this policy prevents school personnel from contacting appropriate law enforcement officials to investigate a violation of or enforce any local, state, or federal law on school grounds or at District-sponsored activities.

Students violating this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion review.

Legal Reference: **Wisconsin Statute - 939.22(9)**
 Wisconsin Statute - 48.396
 Wisconsin Statute - 48.78

Policy Approved: **October 25, 2004**

Policy Revised: **August 24, 2015**