

Anderson Community School Corporation

Policy 5840 -- Criminal Gang Activity, Reporting, and Intervention.

Adopted: 5/10/16

Anti-Gang Statement:

It is the policy of the Anderson Community School Corporation to prohibit gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property or school buses or at school-sponsored functions.

Statement prohibiting reprisal or retaliation against an individual who reports suspected criminal gang activity:

It is the policy of the Anderson Community School Corporation to prohibit reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about an act of gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

Definition of "criminal gang" and "criminal gang activity":

"Criminal gang" defined (per IC 35-45-9-1)- "criminal gang" means a group with at least three (3) members that specifically: (1) either: (A) promotes, sponsors, or assists in; or (B) participates in; or (2) requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery (IC 35-42-2-1). "Gang Activity"- a student who knowingly or intentionally actively participates in a criminal gang, or a student who knowingly or intentionally solicits, recruits, entices, or intimidates another individual to join a criminal gang.

Procedures for reporting suspected gang activity and the prompt investigation of suspected criminal gang activity:

Per IC 20-33-9-10.5, a school employee shall report any incidence of suspected criminal gang activity, criminal gang intimidation, or criminal gang recruitment to the principal and the Chief Operations Officer (COO). The principal and/or the COO may take appropriate action to maintain a safe and secure school environment, including providing appropriate intervention services.

Appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offenses and consider both the developmental ages of the student offenders and students' histories of inappropriate behaviors, per the code of student conduct. Any corporation and school employee who promptly reports an incident of suspected gang activity and who makes this report in compliance with

the procedures of this policy, is immune from a cause of action for damages arising from any failure to remedy the reported incident.

The principal or designee shall conduct a thorough and complete investigation for each report of suspected gang activity. The investigation shall be initiated by the principal or the principal's designee within two school days of the report of the incident. The principal may appoint additional personnel and request the assistance of law enforcement to assist in the investigation for the administrator's safety. The investigation shall be completed and the written findings submitted to the principal as soon as possible, but not later than five school days from the date of the report of the alleged incident of criminal gang activity.

The principal shall submit the report to the superintendent of the school corporation within ten (10) school days of the completion of the investigation. The superintendent or his/her designee shall report the results of each investigation to the board of education on a regular basis during regularly scheduled board meetings.

Each school within the school corporation shall record the number of investigations disposed of internally and the number of cases referred to local law enforcement, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, and gender. Each school shall report this information to the school corporation superintendent who shall submit a written report to the Indiana Department of Education by June 2 of each year.

The principal shall provide the parents of the students who are parties to any investigation with information about the investigation, in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation. The information to be provided to parents includes the nature of the investigation, whether the corporation found evidence of criminal gang activity, and whether consequences were imposed or services provided to address the activity. This information is to be provided in an expedited manner.

The superintendent of the school corporation is authorized to define the range of ways in which school staff and the principal or the principal's designee shall respond once an incident of criminal gang activity is confirmed, according to the parameters described in the corporation's code of student conduct. The school board recognizes that some acts of gang activity may be isolated incidents requiring that the school officials respond appropriately to the individuals committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious that they require a response either at the school corporation level or by local law enforcement officials. Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student who engages in gang activity may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The principal shall proceed in accordance with the code of student conduct, as appropriate, based on the investigation findings. As appropriate to the investigation findings, the principal shall ensure the code of student conduct has been implemented, and provide intervention and/or relevant support services (i.e., refer to counseling, establish training programs to reduce gang activity and enhance school climate, enlist parent corporation and involvement or take other appropriate action). The principal shall inform the parents of all students involved in alleged incidents, and, as appropriate, may discuss the availability of counseling and other intervention services.

The superintendent of the school corporation shall annually disseminate this policy to all parents who have children enrolled in a school within the school corporation. The superintendent shall ensure that notice of the corporation's policy appears in the student handbooks and all other publications of the school corporation that set forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards for schools within the school corporation.

Establishment of Education Programs

In its efforts to address criminal gang activity, the Board establishes the following educational programs:

- 1.) An evidence-based educational criminal gang awareness program for students, Corporation employees and parents; and
- 2.) A Corporation employee development program to provide training to Corporation employees in the implementation of this policy.

Information about the Types of Services, Including Family Support Services, for a Student Suspected of Participating in Criminal Gang Activity

The Superintendent shall provide information about the supports and services available for students who are "at risk" for and/or suspected of participating in criminal gang activity and their families, including:

- 1.) Gang awareness education for students, parents, faculty/personnel, law enforcement, and community stakeholders that, at a minimum, shows potential for effectiveness based on research, revised and updated regularly to reflect current trends in gang and gang-like activity;
- 2.) Culturally and/or linguistically appropriate services/supports for parents and families.
- 3.) Counseling coupled with mentoring for students and their families;
- 4.) Referral to community organizations and civic groups that offer related programs or counseling;
- 5.) Viable, sustainable after-school programs developed in collaboration with other stakeholders;
- 6.) Job training and employment opportunities as both a deterrent to criminal gang involvement and an incentive to leave criminal gang involvement;
- 7.) Related extra-curricular activities

Criminal Gang Prevention and Intervention Services

The Superintendent will seek federal funding to implement criminal gang prevention and intervention services, including:

- 1.) Training for staff and teachers on criminal gang prevention and intervention resources.
- 2.) Dissemination of criminal gang awareness information to students and parents.
- 3.) Integration of School Resource Officer programs.

Publication of the Policy

The Superintendent shall ensure that this policy is posted on the Corporation Internet website, and annually distribute this policy to all parent who have children enrolled within the Corporation. This may be done through student handbooks.