

NORTH KNOX SCHOOL CORPORATION

CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY POLICY

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

B. It is the policy of the North Knox 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.

C. Definition of “criminal gang” and “criminal gang activity”-

A "criminal gang" as defined per IC 35-45-9-1 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” is defined as 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.

D. Per IC 20-33-9-10.5, any school employee of North Knox School Corporation shall report any incidence of suspected criminal gang activity, criminal gang intimidation, or criminal gang recruitment to the principal and the school safety specialist. The principal and the school safety specialist may take appropriate action to maintain a safe and secure school environment, including providing appropriate intervention services. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions taken will be 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 North Knox School Corporation 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 one school day 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 North Knox 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 quarterly basis during regularly scheduled

board meetings. Each school within the North Knox 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 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. The superintendent of the North Knox School Corporation is authorized to define the range of ways in which each 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. The principal shall inform 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.

E. The North Knox School Corporation shall provide students and school employees with annual gang awareness education. The North Knox School Corporation may partner with local agencies (i.e., law enforcement, juvenile probation, community health agency, etc) to provide gang awareness training. North Knox School Corporation shall annually revise the gang awareness education to reflect current trends in gang and gang-like activity.

F. The North Knox School Corporation shall provide training for all school employees on gang prevention and intervention resources on a periodic basis. The gang awareness information shall be revised and updated regularly to reflect current trends in gang activity. The North Knox School Corporation may collaborate with local law enforcement agencies, community health agencies, School Resource Officers, and other providers for programming updates. The North Knox School Corporation shall collaborate with local community-based prevention and intervention providers (Knox County School Safety Commission) to regularly update information pertaining to gangs and gang activity within Knox County.