



SECTION III: STUDENT POLICIES 3250

Prohibition of Gangs and Gang-Related Behavior or Incidents

Oklahoma Virtual Charter Academy (OVCA) recognizes that the possibility of the presence of the emerging gang-related behavior and gang-related incidents in our schools can create an atmosphere of intimidation and harm. The mere presence of such condition can be disruptive and potentially dangerous. It is therefore, the policy of OVCA that gangs and gang-related behavior or incidents are prohibited at any OVCA school activities or events.

Definitions and Descriptions of What is Prohibited:

1. Gangs: Any assembly of three or more individuals, who gather together on a continuing basis whose purpose, the district reasonably believes, is to commit antisocial behavior or to violate school district policy.

2. Gang-Related Behavior or Incidents: Any behavior or event, including but not limited to the following items, which has the effect of disrupting school activities or which fosters, enhances or encourages gang activity in the OVCA community:

- a. Profession of, wearing, use, distribution, or display of any sign, symbol, badge, color, or other item that is evidence of affiliation with, or membership in, a gang. Students will not be permitted to wear pants below the waistline (Sagging and dragging) or wear caps, bandannas, handkerchiefs, shoestrings or any other item associated with gang-related behavior.
- b. Participation in any act, wither verbal or non-verbal, to include gestures, expressions, handshakes, etc. that may indicate in affiliation with, or membership in a gang.
- c. Participation in any act that may further the interest in gang affiliation or gang membership.
- d. Participation in any act that may be evidence of intimidation threats, “pay for protection”, or any other behavior of potential violence.
- e. Participation in the writing, painting or inscribing of gang-related graffiti to include messages, symbols, or signs on school property.
- f. To assemble or congregate as a gang or members of a gang for any purpose.

Violation of Policy:

Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action or may be subject to the filing of criminal charges depending upon the severity of the infraction. Students who violate this policy may be suspended.

Notification of Suspected Gang Activity

Any school employee, as defined by subsection A of Section 650.7 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, who has reason to believe that a child under the age of eighteen (18) years is involved in

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gang activity shall notify the person designated by the school district. Upon receiving such report, the person designated by the school district may report the matter to the nearest local law enforcement agency. The report may be made by telephone, in writing, personally or by any other method prescribed by the school district.

A school district employee or contractor who, in good faith and exercising due care in the making of a report pursuant to subsection A of this section, shall be granted immunity from all civil or criminal liability which might be incurred or imposed by making such report.