

## YOUTH GANGS

The Rice Lake Area 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 student, 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 Rice Lake Area School District hereby bars all gangs, gang affiliations and gang-related activities from school building, school-related activities and school property at all times. A “gang” is defined as any identifiable group or club which exists without the sponsorship of the school or the sponsorship of any recognized adult community or civic organization and which engages in antisocial or criminal behavior activity.

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:

- a. Hats, caps, jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.
- b. Tattoos or other material imprinted on the body which are either intended to be permanent or are easily removed.
- c. Jewelry or other medallions which identify gang members or gang affiliation or which have come to represent a gang.

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

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.

A record of all known gangs and members of such gangs will be compiled and held by school personnel. These lists will regularly be shared with law enforcement officials to the extent allowed or required by law. It is important to have a good working relationship with the police.

Any student known to be a member of a gang will be barred from representing the school as a member of an athletic team or as a participant in extracurricular or co-curricular activities until the student proves to the satisfaction of the school principal that they either are no longer affiliated with a gang or are no longer a gang member.

All school district employees have a 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.

Legal Ref: s.s. 120.13(1), 947.01, 947.013, Chapter 948

Cross Ref: 411.3 Bullying and Harassment by Students; 442RULE Student Code of Conduct and Discipline, 444 Locker Search; 445 Student Interviews/Questioning by Outside Agency Personnel, 457 Student Safety; 833 Weapons on School Premises

Adopted: 12/14/2009

Revised: