

**Policy #1119(Administration) of the Board of Education
Regarding Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior**

I. Purpose

- A. To promote a positive environment conducive to learning by prohibiting gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property and at school-sponsored functions
- B. To promote learning and work environments free of disruption, obstruction, violence, intimidation, and other behaviors which threaten the safety and well-being of students, staff, volunteers, and visitors
- C. To prohibit reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report activities prohibited by this policy

II. Definitions

- A. Gang – refers to a criminal gang which is a group or association of three or more persons whose members:
 - 1. Individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity;
 - 2. Have as one of their primary objectives or activities the commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be underlying crimes if committed by adults; and
 - 3. Have in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure
- B. Disruption - the act of causing disorder, interruption, or delaying the continuity of the work or learning environment; to impede the usual course or harmony of the work or learning environment
- C. Intimidation – using aggressive behavior to cause another to be fearful
- D. Obstruction – the act of hindering action
- E. Gang activity – refers to a pattern of criminal gang activity which is the commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if committed by an adult
- F. School property - any Calvert County Public Schools building and/or grounds, and any CCPS leased or owned vehicles, including school buses when they are in use for official school business. This includes any location used for co- or extra-curricular activities, including any field trips.
- G. Solicitation - urging, advising, inducing, encouraging, requesting, or commanding another

H. Underlying crime - a crime as defined under the Criminal Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland

III. Policy Statement

- A. The Calvert County Board of Education is committed to providing learning and work environments free of disruption, obstruction, violence, intimidation, or other behaviors which threaten the safety and well-being of students, staff, volunteers, and visitors.
- B. The Board of Education prohibits gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property and at school-sponsored functions.
- C. The Board of Education additionally prohibits individuals on school property and at school-sponsored functions from threatening another individual, a friend, or a family member of an individual with use of physical force or violence to coerce, induce, or solicit the individual to participate in or prevent the individual from leaving a gang.
- D. Finally, an individual may not participate in acts of reprisal or retaliation against other individuals who report gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, are witnesses to such behavior, are bystanders, or have reliable information about an act of gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property and at school-sponsored functions.

IV. Delegation of Authority

- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.

V. Exceptions

- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective October 8, 2020.

Citations

State Law: § 9-801 and 803 of the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland
§ 11-154 of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.:

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Administration #1119

Originally Adopted: 7/14/11

Revised: 7/10/14; 8/10/17; 10/08/20

Page 2 of 3

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation:

Related Policies

1118 Discrimination (procedure on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying)

1115 Disruptive Behavior

Administration #1119

Originally Adopted: 7/14/11

Revised: 7/10/14; 8/10/17; 10/08/20

Page **3** of **3**