## **GANGS**

THE IMPACT ON THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND PROMISING PROGRAMS

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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# **GANGS**

AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

#### THE LARGER COMMUNITY

- Who is affected?
- How are your children and families affected?
- Business / Tourism / Schools / Events
- Does your community acknowledge a gang presence?
- Are discussions held to strategize solutions and interventions?

# WHAT IS NEEDED IN EVERY COMMUNITY

- Educational training to community citizens, stakeholders, parents, community leaders and school personnel.
- Training must include Gang Awareness, Identification, Psychology, Effective Communication and Prevention/Intervention Strategies.
- Conducted on a regular basis.

### **COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY**

- Conduct a gang assessment for their community. An assessment should be completed initially and every 3-5 years afterwards.
- A community inventory should be completed to identify gaps and opportunities in each community. This assessment, combined with the gang assessment, gives a thorough and detailed look at the existing problem, level of the problem and means to intervene.
- Programming prevention, intervention, diversion and/or suppression program development and implementation.

#### **GANG FREE NC**

- GFNC is a gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression and policy organization committed to developing, promoting and sustaining state-wide strategies, policies and laws that will reduce criminal gangs in NC.
- GFNC will aid and assist North Carolinians in every capacity in strategies and recommended programs to reduce gangs and gang violence.
- GFNC is committed to educating citizens and community leaders about the dangers of gangs by sharing our knowledge, resources and experience with them in order to prevent gang activity in our state.

#### PROMISING PROGRAMMING

- Services / Regions / Staff
  - Assessments
  - Program Development
  - Symposiums / Trainings / Conferences
  - Regional Meetings
- Sustained with effective results
- Non Profit
- Advocacy and policy change

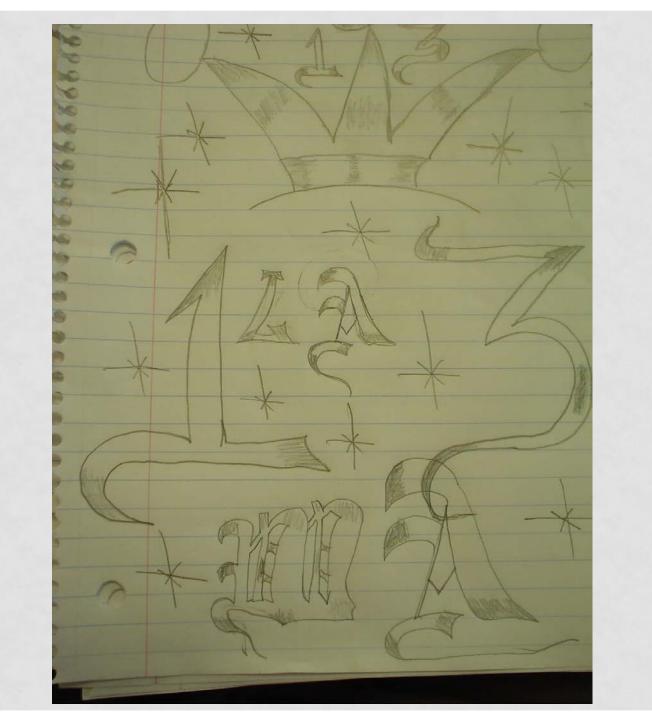


"There will always be a reason you meet people. Either you need them to change your life or you're the one that will change theirs."

### **GANG BEHAVIOR**

1 IN 5 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORT THE PRESENCE OF GANG ACTIVITY IN THEIR SCHOOLS. (BJA)











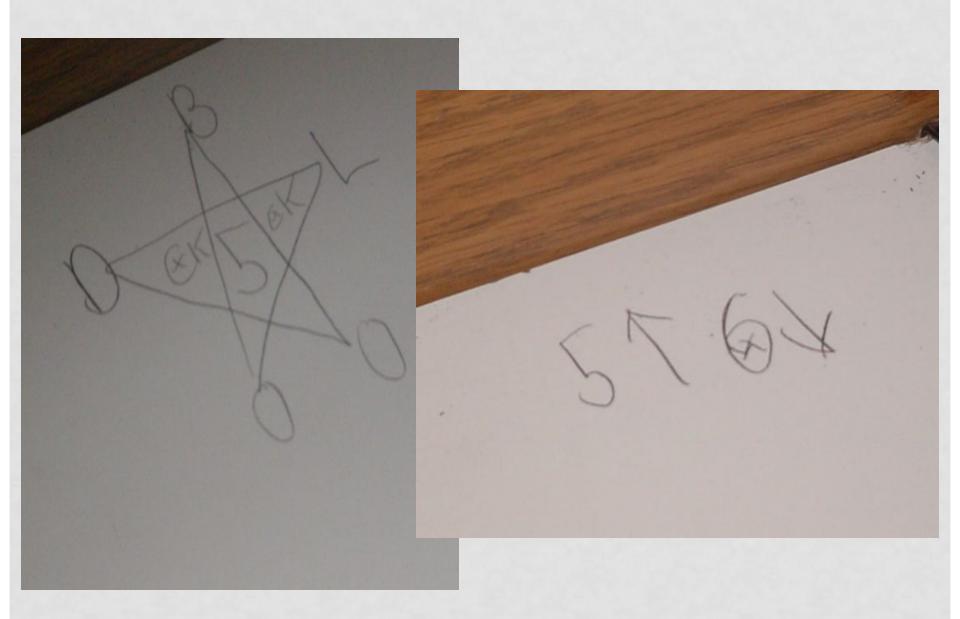














#### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

- Provide gang awareness and intervention education to local school staff to include; teachers, counselors and administrators, as well as, the school board.
- \*Adopt and implement a school policy that addresses gang behaviors displayed within the school and the appropriate course of action thereafter to ensure consistent prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression efforts within the North Carolina school system as a whole.

#### File: 8520

#### STUDENT DRESS CODE

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of cleanliness and dress that a with the requirements of a productive and safe school environment. Those standa acceptable to the community as appropriate in a formal setting will be the deterr governing student dress.

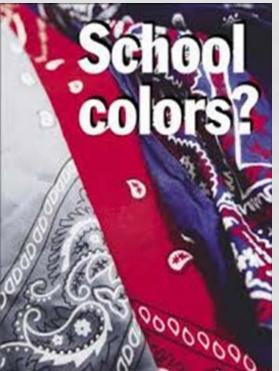
A student's appearance, mode of dress, or condition of personal hygiene will not l disrupt the educational process or constitute a threat to the health or safety of oth Therefore, the following is included:

- The shoulder width of shirts or blouses must completely cover undergarments. No strap tops, tube tops, or tank tops are allowed.
- Net shirts, bare midriffs, or other revealing attire are not acceptable.
- Short dresses, short skirts, or short shorts will not be allowed.
- Pants or shorts must be worn at the waistline. No underwear shall be revealed.
- Headgear, hats, or sunglasses are not to be worn in the building except for med safety reasons.
- No clothing, jewelry or buttons with letters, initials, symbols, or wording that is obscene, offensive, inflammatory, or detrimental to the instructional process are allowed.

#### No gang-related clothing, accessories or symbols as identified by local law enforcement agencies will be allowed.

 All students grades 9-12 will be required to display identification cards with their picture and their name while on the school grounds.

When, in the judgement of the principal, a student's appearance violates the intent of this policy, the student will be required to make necessary modifications. Continued violations of the dress code policy will result in an out-of-school suspension



#### IS THERE A SEPARATION?

# NO...

Gang affiliation is not something that students leave behind when they enter the school building.

Gang members **do not leave** their conflicts, attitudes, and behaviors outside the school doors. Some of the most dangerous gang activities in any community may take place in and around local schools.

# **GANGS**

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMMING

# ELEMENTS

Youth Violence Intervention Program

#### **ELEMENTS**

- ELEMENTS is an all-inclusive program within the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office Gang Task Force designed to implement a combination of education, prevention, intervention, and diversion strategies to address the many factors that cause and sustain youth violence.
- Work directly with youth, their family, school personnel, law enforcement, and the community to help prevent youth violence.

# A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF GANGS IN NORTH CAROLINA: A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008

"The NH GTF is the only full service prevention, intervention and suppression unit on which any information can be found on. This initiative offers everything from mental health services such as counseling, diversion programs after school and on weekends, mentoring and the information and legal authority of the Sheriff's Office. What is so unique is the services are all provided by Sheriff's Office personnel. There is a clinical social worker who goes into the schools and housing projects, develops programs and activities as well as offers counseling. They have case managers and deputies assigned to the NH GTF that actively participate in each youth's progress acting as mentors. This innovative approach allows the clinical social worker to assist in determining if a child is at risk for gang involvement rather than waiting for referrals that often times are delayed due to labeling concerns by school resource officers, school counselors, teachers or administrators. The New Hanover County Sheriff's Office has literally cut through all of the red tape and concerns of many by forming agreements with the school system and community groups to aid in providing a full service gang prevention, intervention and suppression unit"



#### THE STUDENTS

All students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or place of residence, tend to report higher rates of victimization and fear when there are gangs in school.

## THANK YOU

FOR YOUR TIME, EFFORT AND DESIRE FOR CHANGE

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