

# REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Related Entries:** JCC, JCCB  
**Responsible Office:** OFFICE OF SCHOOL SECURITY

## GANG AND GANG-LIKE ACTIVITIES

### A. PURPOSE

To establish fair and consistent procedures for prompt information sharing and investigation of suspected gang and gang-like activity, in accordance with the Safe Schools Act of 2010.

### B. BACKGROUND

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is committed to providing a more safe and secure educational environment for students and employees. We strive to ensure that all students involved in gang or gang-like activities at AACPS are subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions. We are also committed to notifying students, school personnel, and the school community about gang and gang-like activities on school property, school buses, and school-sponsored activities, in accordance with the Safe Schools Act of 2010.

### C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Criminal Gang*** – a group or association of three or more individuals who individually or collectively:
  - a. Engages in a pattern of criminal activity;
  - b. Has 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
  - c. Has in common an overt or covert organizational or command structure, including:
    - i. A common name;
    - ii. Identifiable marks, colors, signs (gestures/terminology), or symbols;
    - iii. A claim to turf or territory; and
    - iv. Associate on a regular basis.

2. ***Gang-Like Activity*** – a pattern of criminal gang activity, including 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.
3. ***Pattern of Criminal Gang Activity*** – 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.
  - a. A person may not threaten an individual, or a friend or 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 criminal gang in:
    - i. A school vehicle, as defined by State law; or
    - ii. Within 1,000 feet of real property owned or leased to an elementary school, secondary school, or the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County and used for elementary or secondary education.
  - b. This section applies whether or not:
    - i. School was in session at the time of the crime; or
    - ii. The real property was being used for purposes other than school purposes at the time of the crime.
4. ***Solicit*** – urging, advising, inducing, encouraging, requesting, or commanding another.

## **D. PROCEDURES**

### **1. School Security Coordinator**

- a. The principal or the principal's designee at each elementary school shall be the school security coordinator. The school security coordinator may not be a teacher.
- b. Each middle and high school shall have at least one school security coordinator. The principal or the principal's designee shall be the school security coordinator. The school security coordinator may not be a teacher.

## 2. Reporting

- a. Reports on gang and gang-like activities shall be in accordance with State law. School employees shall immediately report an incidence of actual or suspected gang activity to the principal. The principal or the principal's designee shall report the actual or suspected gang or gang-like activity to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
  - b. A report about gang or gang-like activity shall be made in writing on the *Gang Incident Reporting Form* available in the school office or the AACPS intranet. The report shall be submitted to the Communications Center within 24 hours of the oral report.
  - c. Upon receipt of a *Gang Incident Reporting Form*, the principal or the principal's designee shall initiate the appropriate investigation within 24 hours. If the report is of a high level of severity, including criminal activity, imminent danger, or disruption, the investigation shall be initiated immediately or as soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours. The appropriate AACPS staff shall be notified and the school resource officer may assist with the investigation as requested.
  - d. The principal or the principal's designee shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the victim's parent(s)/guardian(s).
3. The *Gang Incident Reporting Form* shall be maintained in a secure location in the principal's office.
  4. The reporting and information gathered during the investigation may not become part of the student's permanent record unless disciplinary action is taken against the student after affording due process.
  5. *Gang incident* reports shall be tracked to monitor the progress of each investigation and used for evaluation purposes.
  6. Student-specific records on gang and gang-like activities shall be destroyed when the:
    - a. Allegation is unsubstantiated; or
    - b. Student graduates, permanently leaves school, or turns 22, whichever occurs first.

## 7. Professional Development

AACPS shall provide annual training for all school staff regarding gang prevention and intervention resources. New employees shall receive the mandatory training as soon as practicable.

## 8. Security Meetings

Regular school security meetings shall be held for middle and high schools to ensure coordination of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts in accordance with the Maryland Safe Schools Act of 2010.

## 9. Information Sharing

The Superintendent shall inform principals and school security coordinators of AACPS' plan for sharing and using information about non-student specific gang-like activities. The plan shall include how school officials will share information on gang and gang-like activities with parents/guardians. In accordance with State law, the Superintendent or school principal shall:

- a. Be permitted to transmit information as a confidential file, to the local superintendent of another public school system in the State or another nonpublic school in the State in which the student has been enrolled or been transferred in order to carry out the purposes of this section if the disposition of the reportable offense was a conviction or an adjudication of delinquency or the criminal charge or delinquency is still pending;
- b. Share information on arrests, dispositions, and reports about gang or gang-like activity with school personnel in the school in which the student is enrolled for use in providing the student appropriate educational programming;
- c. Have the option to share the information on arrests, dispositions, and internal reports about gang-related incidents with school personnel in the school in which the student is enrolled as necessary to maintain a safe and secure environment for students and school personnel and in accordance with the law.
- d. The school principal or school security coordinator of each school shall meet regularly with the appropriate school counselor(s) or pupil personnel worker to share information about gang and gang-like activities. They shall also discuss the educational plan for and progress of each student who has been arrested or adjudicated delinquent for gang or gang-like activity or, who has been named in an accurate, reliable report of participating in gang or gang-like activity.
- e. The Superintendent shall designate the principal and school security coordinator to contact appropriate law enforcement officials whenever a report of on-going or threatened gang-related violence appears accurate and reliable. The designee shall share with the law enforcement officer information about the specific event and the students involved. The principal or designee shall be responsible for making appropriate requests for non-emergency assistance from law enforcement for gang and gang-like activities by contacting the Communications Center.

**10. Violation**

- a. Students who violate this regulation or accompanying policy shall be subject to the full range of school disciplinary sanctions as outlined in *The Code of Student Conduct*.
- b. The principal or the principal’s designee shall administer consequences consistent with due process rights or remedial action in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations and this regulation.

**11. Retaliation**

AACPS prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report gang or gang-like activity. Reprisal or retaliation shall be addressed in accordance with *The Code of Student Conduct*.

**12. Services and Supports**

AACPS staff shall provide gang awareness education and counseling to students who have been identified as participating in gang or gang-like activity.

**Regulation History:** Developed by Superintendent: 09/01/12; 11/07/18  
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**Note Previous History:** None