



## **Gang Prevention and Intervention Policy**

### **I. Purpose**

Valley Academy Charter School (VACS) promotes a safe and orderly school environment for all students and employees. Criminal acts or disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated and any individual who engages in such activity will be subject to school disciplinary action, prosecution, or both.

### **II. Definitions**

- a.** At-risk student means any student who because of the student's individual needs requires some kind of uniquely designed intervention to achieve literacy, graduate, and be prepared for transition from school to post-school options.
- b.** Gang means a group of three or more people who form an allegiance and engage in criminal activity, which uses violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives. A gang may, but is not limited to, having a name, turf, colors, symbols, distinct dress, or any combination of the preceding characteristics.
- c.** Gang prevention means instructional and support strategies, activities, programs, or curricula designed and implemented to provide successful experiences for youth and families. Gang prevention activities shall promote cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationship skills required for school completion and full participation in society.
- d.** Gang intervention means specially designed services required by an individual student experiencing difficulty in cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationships, within or outside of the school, which may impact the individual's susceptibility to gang membership or gang-like activities.
- e.** Gang Prevention and Intervention Program means specifically designed projects and activities to help at-risk students stay in school and enhance their cultural and social competence, self-management skills, citizenship, preparation for life skills, academic achievement, literacy, and interpersonal relationship skills required for school completion and full participation in society

### **III. Policy and Procedure**

- a.** School faculty and personnel shall report suspected gang activities relating to the school and its students to a school administrator and law enforcement;
- b.** A student who has been identified and participates in gang related activities may be excluded from participation in extracurricular activities, interscholastic athletics, before and after school clubs, and other school sponsored activities as determined by VAC administration and as per VAC Behavior Plan Policy.
- c.** Gang-related graffiti or damage to school property shall result in parent notification and appropriate administrative and law enforcement actions, which may include obtaining restitution from those responsible for the damage;
- d.** If a serious gang-related incident, as determined by the school administrator in consultation with local law enforcement, occurs on school property, at school related activities, or on a site that is normally considered to be under school control, notification shall be provided to parents of students in the school:
  - i.** informing them, in general terms, about the incident, but removing all personally identifiable information about students from the notice;
  - ii.** emphasizing the school's concern for safety; and
  - iii.** outlining the action taken at the school regarding the incident;
- e.** School faculty and personnel shall be trained to recognize early warning signs for youth in trouble and help students resist serious involvement in undesirable activity, including joining gangs or mimicking gang behavior;
- f.** Prohibitions of the following behavior (this is not an exhaustive list and could include more prohibitions as identified by Administration):
  - i.** advocating or promoting a gang or any gang-related activities.
  - ii.** marking school property, books, or school work with gang names, hate symbols, slogans, or signs;
  - iii.** conducting gang initiations;
  - iv.** threatening another person with bodily injury or inflicting bodily injury on another in connection with a gang or gang-related activity;
  - v.** aiding or abetting an activity described under Subsections (III)(f)(i) through (iv) by a person's presence or support;
  - vi.** displaying or wearing common gang apparel, common dress, or identifying signs or symbols on one's clothing, person, or personal property that is disruptive to the school environment;
  - vii.** communicating in any method, including verbal, non-verbal, and electronic means, designed to convey gang membership or affiliation.