

A task force on

GANGS

IN SCHOOLS



Task Force Recommendations – August 2008

Recommendation 1:

Revise the statute that authorizes schools to suspend or expel students who engage in gang activity, including a definition of “gang” to be consistent with the criminal code and the definition of “gang activity” to include intimidation of staff or students.



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Recommendation 2:

Establish a 1000 foot “school safety zone” in statute, from which gang members can be excluded if they engage in activity that warrants concern for the safety of staff or students



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Recommendation 3:

Provide grants to school districts and communities for gang prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing gangs in schools and intervening with gang associated youth to reduce suspensions



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Recommendation 4:

Consider dedicated funding for support of transition programs to provide educational and intervention services for suspended or expelled students



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Recommendation 5:

Develop sample anti-gang school policies that include consistent discipline practices, and mandate that all districts adopt an anti-gang policy



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Recommendation 6:

Provide support for ongoing in-state training for all agencies and providers serving gang-affected youth



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Recommendation 7:

Development of a secure information sharing system for exchange of information on gang activity



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Key Findings

- *Gang activity in the state of Washington is on the rise*
- *The presence of gang activity in the vicinity of schools poses a risk to staff, student safety and school security*
- *Effective anti-gang initiatives require the elements of prevention, intervention and suppression*
- *Intimidation of staff and students by gang members is one of the most significant impacts that gangs have on the educational environment and the perception of school safety.*
- *Schools do not have a uniform approach to addressing gang activity or gang-associated students*
- *Administrators, teachers and other school staff lack current information on gangs, gang indicators and activity*
- *Most schools and communities lack the resources to address gangs*



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Thank You !!

For more information on the Gangs in Schools Task Force, or to submit written comments:

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