

GANGS

- WHEREAS, The objective of PTA is to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship; ^{1,2} and
- WHEREAS, 49.5% of public respondents indicated that they know of, or believe there is, a gang presence in their community and those acknowledging a gang presence rated the overall impact of gangs on crime and other problems in their area at a moderate level; ^{3,4} and
- WHEREAS, gangs are engaging in a variety of disruptive activities in our communities, schools, and prisons– most notably violent offenses such as assaults and intimidation, property offenses such as graffiti, vandalism, and burglary, and drug possession and distribution throughout the state of Utah; ^{5,6} and
- WHEREAS, Gang culture including clothing, accessories, music, jargon, symbols and rituals are being marketed to our children and youth specifically promoting and encouraging involvement in gang activity; ^{7,8} and
- WHEREAS, Gang members are increasingly younger in age and notably more violent and many gang members come from families in which they are neglected and where psychological, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse are found and such abuse at a very early age has a particularly negative effect on a growing child; ^{9,10,11,12} and
- WHEREAS, Gang involvement negatively affects a child’s social, academic and physical well-being; ^{13,14} now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations educate the community at large to understand the importance of preventing youth from joining gangs by creating communities that strengthen families and schools, improving community supervision, training teachers and parents to manage disruptive youth, and teaching students’ interpersonal skills; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations provide gang awareness training to parents, communities, and local merchants with the support of information provided by local law enforcement agencies and gang task forces on delinquent behaviors and specific trends or fads that are detrimental to the wellbeing of our youth and that place our youth at risk; and further be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations become actively involved in the, prevention and intervention of gang related activity by advocating for programs that provide supports such as tutoring for students who perform poorly in school, after school adult supervision of students, and centers for recreation and services; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations work with schools, the community, cultural groups, civic leaders, law enforcement agencies, and the Utah Legislature to combat the disruptive behaviors associated with gangs.

(This Resolution Replaces SAF1994-1 Gangs and SAF 1994-2 Parental Awareness of Gang Attire-Paraphernalia)

Documentation:

¹<http://www.utahpta.org/purposes>

²<https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/Mission-Values>

³<https://gangfree.utah.gov/Media/Default/Documents/Reports/GangAssessmentReport.pdf> page 3

⁴<https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/SCR012.html>

⁵<https://gangfree.utah.gov/Media/Default/Documents/Reports/GangAssessmentReport.pdf> page 3

⁶<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/Pages/Teenagers-and-Gangs.aspx?nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token&nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token>

⁷<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED518416.pdf> page 7-9

⁸<http://www.wvc-ut.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6752/Gang-Handouts?bidId=> pages 7-8

⁹<https://gangfree.utah.gov/Media/Default/Documents/Reports/GangAssessmentReport.pdf> page 3

¹⁰<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED518416.pdf> page 3

¹¹<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/186162.pdf>

¹²http://people.missouristate.edu/MichaelCarlie/what_I_learned_about/gangs/whyform/fear_and_a_lack_of_security.htm

¹³<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED518416.pdf> pages 6-7

¹⁴<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/teen/Pages/Teenagers-and-Gangs.aspx?nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token&nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token>

Extra information on Gang Influence and Parent Engagement can be found at:

<https://www.choosegangfree.com/help-for-parents.html>

<https://howtoadult.com/impact-parents-gangs-4923.html>

<https://youth.gov/feature-article/gang-prevention-overview-research-and-programs>