

Hazing Policy

Definitions

“Hazing” means conduct in connection with an initiation of applicants to or members of a student or fraternal organization where a person knowingly or recklessly:

- A. Causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to commit an act that violates federal or State criminal law;
- B. Causes, coerces, or otherwise induces another person to consume any food, liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug or other substance which subjects the person to a risk of emotional or physical harm or is otherwise deleterious to the person’s health;
- C. Subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a physical nature, including, but not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, excessive calisthenics, or exposure to the elements;
- D. Subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a mental or emotional nature, including, but not limited to, activity adversely affecting the mental or emotional health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, or conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment;
- E. Subjects another person to abuse, mistreatment, harassment, or degradation of a sexual nature; or
- F. Subjects another person to any other activity that creates a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to the person.

Hazing shall not include any reasonable and customary athletic, law enforcement, or military training; contests; competitions; or events (section 1 of P.L.1980, c.169 N.J.S.A. 2C:40-3).

“Organization” means a fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club or service, social or similar group, whose members are primarily minors, students, or alumni of the organization.

Policy

Hazing activities of any type are prohibited at all times regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours. No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, permit, condone, ignore, or tolerate any form of hazing.

The board shall ensure that students are informed of this anti-hazing policy, including the rules, penalties, and program of enforcement under the policy.

Reporting Hazing

Students, parents/guardians, administrators, coaches, volunteers, and employees should immediately report hazing conduct to the building School Leader or their designee. All complaints of hazing shall be investigated promptly by the chief school administrator or his or her designee.

Consequences

Individuals and/or groups found to have committed or participated in hazing another student or students shall be subject to disciplinary action. The penalties for violations of the hazing policy may include:

- A. The rescission of permission for the organization or group, whose student members are being penalized under the anti-hazing policy, to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the school district; and
- B. The imposition of suspension, dismissal, or expulsion.

A penalty imposed on a student found to have committed or participated in hazing another student or other students shall be in addition to penalties imposed for violating the code of student conduct or any other school rule which the violator may be subject to. This policy shall apply to each act conducted on or off school property if the acts are deemed to constitute hazing.

Adopted: 8/15/2023