

Students

Hazing

Hazing, harassment, intimidation, or any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces a student or staff member will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior is subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

Any Board employee present at a school-sponsored activity who permits the above-mentioned behavior is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

General Statement of Policy

A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee or agent of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, condone, or engage in hazing.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee or agent of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.

C. Implied or expressed consent by a victim of hazing does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy, and will not be considered as a defense to or mitigation of any alleged violation of this policy.

D. Hazing activities are seriously disruptive of the educational process. This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during, before, or after school hours.

E. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to initiate another person or to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

F. The school district will investigate complaints of hazing and will take appropriate action, including but not limited to discipline, against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee or agent of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

Definitions

A. "Hazing" means committing an act that creates a risk of harm to a person or property for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership or affiliation with in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality, including but not limited to whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or requiring the ingestion or placing a substance in or on the body.

2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, extended isolation from social contact, confinement to unreasonably small, unventilated, unsanitary or unlighted areas,] exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to a risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to a risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to unreasonable stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation including but not limited to requiring indecent exposure that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student, or discourages the student from remaining in school.

5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies, rules, or regulations.

Dissemination of Policy

This policy shall appear in each school's parent and/or student handbook and in each school's staff handbook.

(cf.5114 – Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf.5131 – Conduct)

(cf5145.5-Sexual Harassment)

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LEDYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Ledyard, Connecticut