

HAZING

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, the School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on school property or at a school sponsored or school related event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

For purposes of this policy the term “hazing” shall have the same meaning as in M.G.L.c. 269, §17; namely, the term “hazing” “shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.” M.G.L.c. 269, §17.

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the principal/head of upper school including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the school district are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.

Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student, up to and including suspension. Any student who participates in hazing of another student or other person, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any student who is determined by the principal/head of upper school to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

On an annual basis, before or at the start of the school year, the Superintendent shall ensure that all high school students are provided with a copy of the provisions of M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19 and shall ensure that each school issues to every student group, student team or student organization a copy of M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of the school district’s policy along with copies of M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19 to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team, or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the principal of the school an attested acknowledgment stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this policy and M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19, that each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants has received a copy of the sections seventeen, eighteen and nineteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this policy and the provisions of M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure compliance with the applicable reporting

provisions of state law with respect to certifying that each secondary school in the school district has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams, or organizations and to notify each full-time student enrolled by it of the provisions of the state's hazing law and also certifying that a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating such policies to students.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L.c. 269, §§17-19

Adopted: September 16, 2014