

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: August 19, 2002

REVISED: September 19, 2016

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions <u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5352</u></p> <p><u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5352</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">247. HAZING</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy hazing is defined as any activity<u>action or situation</u> that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student <u>or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property</u> for the purpose of initiation or membership in, or affiliation with, <u>or as a condition of continued membership in</u>, any organization recognized by the Board.</p> <p>Endanger the physical health shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.</p> <p>Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which <u>is intended or</u> could result in <u>humiliation</u>, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.</p> <p>Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.</p> <p><u>For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.</u></p> <p><u>For purposes of this policy, student activity or organization is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.</u></p>
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<p>3. Authority <u>SC 5110</u> <u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5354</u> Pol. 122, 123</p>	<p><u>The Board prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours.</u>The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school sponsored student activity. No student, <u>parent/guardian, administrator,</u> coach, sponsor, volunteer or school district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in, <u>condone or ignore</u> any <u>form of hazing activity.</u></p> <p>The Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or school district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.</p> <p>The school district will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the school principal.</p> <p>Willing participation in hazing activities is strictly prohibited and those students identified as willing participants may<u>will</u> be subject to disciplinary consequences.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>School district administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual <u>or student activity or organization found to be in violation of</u> who violates this policy.</p> <p>Students, <u>parents/guardians,</u> administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and school district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the school principal.</p>
<p><u>5. Guidelines</u> <u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5354</u></p> <p><u>SC 511</u> <u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5354</u></p>	<p>The school district shall annually inform students, <u>parents/guardians, administrators,</u> coaches, sponsors, volunteers and school district staff that hazing of school district students is prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, presentation at an assembly, verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program, or posting of notice/signs.</p> <p><u>This policy, along with other applicable district policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and all sponsors and volunteers affiliated with a student activity or organization annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in a student activity or organization.</u></p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Complaint Procedure</u></p>

<p><u>SC 511</u> <u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5354</u> <u>Pol. 218, 233</u></p> <p><u>Pol. 317, 417, 517</u></p> <p><u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5354</u></p> <p><u>24 P.S.</u> <u>Sec. 5353</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a student believes that s/he has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the school principal. 2. The school principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing. 3. The school principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Copies of the report shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, and others directly involved, as appropriate. <p><u>4. The district shall document the corrective action taken.</u></p> <p><u>Consequences for Violations</u></p> <p>4. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the school principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action <u>up to and including expulsion</u>, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.</p> <p><u>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor, or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, s/he shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor, or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment.</u></p> <p><u>If a student activity or organization authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of this policy or other applicable district rules, penalties may also include rescision of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.</u></p> <p><u>Any person who causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution.</u></p> <p><u>References:</u></p> <p><u>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 511</u></p> <p><u>Antihazing Law – 24 P.S. Sec. 5351 et seq</u></p> <p><u>Board Policy – 122, 123, 218, 233, 317, 417, 517, 916</u></p>
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