



Book	Policy Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	STUDENT HAZING
Code	po5516
Status	Active
Legal	F.S. 1001.43 F.S. 1006.09 F.S. 1006.135
Adopted	September 4, 2012
Last Revised	June 29, 2022

5516 - STUDENT HAZING

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with and disruptive to the educational process, and are prohibited. No administrator, faculty member, or other School Board employee shall encourage, permit, authorize, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. No volunteer of the School District shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, condone, or engage in hazing.

Hazing is defined as any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school for purposes including, but not limited to:

- A. initiation into any organization operating under the sanction of a District school;
- B. admission into any organization operating under the sanction of a District school;
- C. affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a District school; or
- D. the perpetuation or furtherance of a tradition or ritual of any organization operating under the sanction of a District school.

Pursuant to F.S. 1006.135, "hazing" means any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6 through 12 for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliated with any organization operating under the sanction of a school with any of grades 6 through 12. "Hazing" includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student into:
 - 1. Violating State or Federal law;
 - 2. Consuming any food, liquor, drug, or other substance; or
 - 3. Participating in physical activity that could adversely affect the health or safety of the student.
- B. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.

Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Administrators, faculty members, and other employees of the Board shall be alert particularly to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent in accordance with procedures set forth herein. Students, administrators, faculty members, and other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

This policy applies to hazing behavior that occurs on or off school property and before, during, and after school hours.

A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

The school principal shall have the authority to suspend or restrict the activity of an organization, members of an organization, or individual for engaging in hazing (see also Policy 2430 *District-Sponsored Clubs and Activities*).

Procedure for Reporting

The Board designates the principal as the person responsible for receiving all complaints of hazing. Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of hazing should immediately report the situation to the school principal. Complaints against the principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board Chair.

All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy and alleged acts of hazing to the principal or as described above. School employees must report the alleged violations and acts to the principal within twenty-four (24) hours.

All other members of the school community, including students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy to the principal or as described above.

Written and oral reports shall be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Retaliation

The Principal or Superintendent will discipline any student, employee, or volunteer of the School District who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report or who testifies or otherwise assists in an investigation, hearing, or other proceeding relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but it is not limited to any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

Discipline for Hazing

Students found to have engaged in acts of hazing as defined herein shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Reports to Law Enforcement (Grades 9 through 12)

An alleged act of hazing involving any student in grades 9-12 shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency if the alleged act meets the following criteria:

- A. a person who commits an act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or an applicant to any type of student organization, if the person knew or should have known the act would result in serious bodily injury or death of such other person and the act results in the serious bodily injury or death of such other person; or
- B. a person who commits an act of hazing upon another person who is a member of or applicant to any type of student organization, if the person knew or should have known the act would create a potential risk of physical injury or death to such other person and the act creates a potential risk of physical injury or death of such other person.

Referral of Victims and Perpetrators of Hazing to a Certified School Counselor

Individual(s) who are alleged victims or perpetrators of hazing shall be referred to a certified school counselor whose responsibility it will be to address any counseling needs of the victim or perpetrator deemed necessary by the certified school counselor which may include, but is not limited to, counseling and support to address the needs of the victim and perpetrator, interventions to address the behavior of students who perpetrated the hazing, and interventions which include assistance and support for victims of hazing.

District Reporting of Hazing Incidents

Hazing incidents shall be reported in each school's safety and discipline report required under F.S. 1006.09. The report shall include the number of hazing incidents reported, the number of incidents referred to a local law enforcement agency, the number of incidents that result in disciplinary action taken by the school, and the number of incidents that do not result in either referral to a local law enforcement agency or disciplinary action taken by the school.

Notice

The Superintendent shall distribute this policy to all students and Board employees, and shall incorporate it into building, staff, and student handbooks. It shall also be the subject of discussion at employee staff meetings or in-service programs.

Effective 9/5/12
Revised 6/29/22

© Neola 2019