

SUBJECT: HAZING OF STUDENTS

The District is committed to providing a safe, productive and positive learning environment within its schools. Hazing activities are demeaning, and abusive behaviors that harm victims, are inconsistent with the educational goals of the District, and may constitute criminal conduct. Consequently, the hazing of students by other students or groups of students is strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, by school sponsored groups, clubs or teams; and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off-campus. Hazing is prohibited regardless of the victim's apparent willingness to participate in the activity.

For purposes of this policy, the term "hazing" is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to join a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. Acts constituting hazing may range in severity from teasing or embarrassing a student to various forms of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Hazing behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- a) Humiliation: socially offensive, isolating or uncooperative behaviors.
- b) Substance abuse: abuse of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- c) Other dangerous actions: hurtful, aggressive, destructive, and disruptive behaviors.

Hazing is a form of harassment and bullying and may constitute discrimination. Various District policies and documents address discrimination and harassment of students. These policies and documents may include: Policy #3420 - *Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District*; Policy #3421 - *Title IX and Sex Discrimination*; Policy #7550 - *Dignity for All Students*; Policy #7551 - *Sexual Harassment of Students*; and the District's *Code of Conduct*. As such, the District's response to reports of hazing will be handled in accordance with the applicable District policies and/or documents.

New York State Penal Law §§120.16 and 120.17
Education Law Sections 1709-a, 2503-a, and 2801
8 NYCRR §100.2(1)(2)

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3410 - *Code of Conduct on School Property*
#3420 – *Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District*
#3421 – *Title IX and Sex Discrimination*
#7550 - *Dignity for All Students*
#7551 - *Sexual Harassment of Students*
District Code of Conduct

Adopted 9/28/2004

Revised: 5/28/2019, 7/13/2021