

Pittsfield School District

**HAZING**

It is the policy of the district that no student or employee of the district shall participate in or be members of any secret organization, either formal or informal, that is in any degree related to the school or to a school activity. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned by the Board shall engage or participate in hazing. The district does not permit or condone student hazing.

For the purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any act directed toward a student, or any coercion or intimidation of a student to act or to participate in or submit to any act, when: (1) such act is likely or would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to cause physical or psychological injury to any person, and (2) such act is a condition of initiation into, admission into, continued membership in, or association with any organization. Hazing includes but is not limited to an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization that is sanctioned or authorized by the Board.

“Endanger the physical health” shall include, but is not 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 dangerous substance; or any forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

“Endanger the mental health” shall include but is not limited to any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by the Board is conditioned, directly or indirectly, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participated in such activity.

This policy is not intended to deprive district authorities from taking necessary and appropriate disciplinary action toward any student or employee. Students or employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may include expulsion for students and employment termination for employees.

The superintendent shall take reasonable measures within the scope of the district’s authority to prevent student hazing. All hazing reported to the district or which any

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district staff member has knowledge of shall be promptly reported to law enforcement as required by RSA 631:7, Student Hazing.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in the district, including being printed in the student handbook.

Reading: October 2, 2008  
Adoption: October 16, 2008  
Reviewed: January 15, 2015  
Amended: December 6, 2018  
Reviewed: April 6, 2023