

HAZING

Maine statute defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.”

Hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group or organization affiliated with this school unit, that impact the educational process shall be prohibited at all times.

“Harassing behavior” includes acts of intimidation and any other conduct that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student or staff member.

“Acts of intimidation” include extortion, menacing, direct or indirect threats of violence, incidents of violence, bullying, statements or taunting of a malicious and/or derogatory nature that recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health of another person, and property damage or theft.

No administrator, faculty member, other employee of the school unit, or volunteer shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing activities.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate measures. Administrators, professional staff, and all other employees who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

In the case of an organization affiliated with this school unit that authorizes hazing, penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to receive any other benefit of affiliation with the school unit.

Persons not associated with this school unit who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to removal from school property and/or other measures as may be available under the law.

These penalties shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator or organization may be subject.

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for administering this policy. In the event that an individual or organization disagrees with an action—or lack of action—on the part of the Superintendent/designee as he/she carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the Board within 14 calendar days. The ruling of the Board with respect to the provisions of this policy shall be final.

This right to appeal does not apply to matters submitted to grievance procedures under applicable collective bargaining agreements.

A copy of this policy shall be included in all school, parent, and employee handbooks or otherwise distributed to all school employees and students.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 6553

Cross Reference: ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Employees
JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety

Adopted: May 4, 2005