

Hazing

The Milford Board of Education wishes to promote a secure and happy school climate, conducive to teaching and learning. Hazing, menacing or abuse of students or staff members will not be tolerated. Any staff member, employee or student who engages in an act that injures, degrades or disgraces or reasonably causes fear for personal safety by another student or staff member, disrupts the educational process, or interferes with a student's opportunity to obtain an education shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Hazing can be defined as an activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization. Hazing takes many forms and can include different behaviors such as but not limited to:

1. Physical violence and attacks that would bring physical harm to an individual.
2. Morally degrading or humiliating games, pranks, stunts and practical jokes or any other activities that make an individual the object of amusement, shame, embarrassment or intimidation.
3. Any activities that unreasonably interferes with a student's academic efforts.
4. Requiring an individual to participate in acts of vandalism, theft, assault, sexual acts or other criminal activity.

Any act of hazing will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, exclusion and loss of participation in extra curricular activities and exclusion of school privileges. He/she also may be referred to law enforcement authorities and face subsequent prosecution.

Each principal, athletic coach, cheerleading advisor and other extracurricular supervisor shall inform his/her students about this policy. At a minimum, such communication shall take place prior to the beginning of each team or group's activities for the year. Each student participating in athletics, cheerleading, student government, clubs, music programs, and other extra curricular activities shall be required to submit a written statement of commitment attached to this policy as condition of participation on an annual basis. Parents will also be notified of this prohibition against hazing on an annual basis, and the penalties for violating the prohibition.

The schools will promote activities to help students understand that hazing is not condoned and will promote a secure environment, free from threat, harassment and any type of hazing behavior. These activities will include, but not be limited to, an emphasis on character development, such as respect, caring and responsibility.

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation

5131.91(b)
Students

Hazing

Ref. 5144 Discipline/Punishment
5114 Suspension/Expulsion: Due Process
5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
5131.8 Off-School Misconduct
5131.9 Assaults/Threats

Policy Proposed: October 9, 2001
Policy Adopted: November 13, 2001

MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Milford, Connecticut