

## **526 - HAZING PROHIBITION**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the education district and are prohibited at all times.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the education district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the education district shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours.
- E. 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.
- F. The education district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the education district who is found to have violated this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Hazing” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:
  - 1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
  - 2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
  - 3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
  5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of education district policies or regulations.
- B. “Student organization” means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

#### **IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate education district official designated by this policy.
- B. The building administrator is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to the education district human rights officer or to the executive director.
- C. Teachers, administrators, volunteers, contractors and other employees of the education district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events that might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute hazing shall inform the building administrator immediately.
- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter’s future employment, grades or work assignments.

#### **V. EDUCATION DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the education district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by education district officials or a third party designated by the education district.
- B. The education district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the education district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. Education district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable

collective bargaining agreements, applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, education district policies and regulations.

## **VI. REPRISAL**

The education district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the education 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, reprisal or harassment.