

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 school or any activity expected of a student as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers the student regardless of the student’s willingness to participate in the activity.”*

It is the policy of the Board that injurious hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group or organization affiliated with RSU 40, are inconsistent with the educational process and will be prohibited at all times.

No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of RSU 40 will encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate injurious hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, may plan, encourage, or engage in injurious hazing activities.

Persons not associated with RSU 40 who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to ejection from school property and other measures as may be available under the law.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate measures. In the case of an organization affiliated with RSU 40 which 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 RSU 40.

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

The Superintendent will assume responsibility 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 as he/she carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the Board. The ruling of the Board, with respect to the provisions of this policy, will be final.

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

Legal Reference: 20-M.R.S. §6553

Cross Reference: ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
 ACAB - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Employees
 JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety
 JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying in Schools

This is a required policy.

Adopted: February 5, 1990

Revised: January 23, 2014
Reviewed: December 17, 2015
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