

**HAZING OF STUDENTS**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, productive, and positive learning environment within its schools. Hazing activities are demeaning and abusive behaviors that harm victims, are inconsistent with the educational goals of the District, and may constitute criminal conduct. Consequently, hazing of students by other students or groups of students is strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, by school-sponsored groups, clubs, or teams, and at school-sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off-campus. Hazing is prohibited regardless of the victim's apparent willingness to participate in the activity.

For purposes of this policy, the term "hazing" is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to join a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. Acts constituting hazing may range in severity from teasing or embarrassing a student to various forms of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. Hazing behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- a) Humiliation: socially offensive, isolating, or uncooperative behaviors.
- b) Substance abuse: abuse of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
- c) Other dangerous actions: hurtful, aggressive, destructive, and disruptive behaviors.

Hazing is a form of harassment and bullying, as those terms are defined for the purposes of Policy #3410 Code of Conduct, and may constitute discrimination. As such, the District's response to reports of hazing will be governed by applicable law and the District's *Code of Conduct*. In the event allegations involve hazing based on a student's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or disability, the District may utilize the procedures set forth in Policy #3420 -- Anti-Harassment in the School District.

Education Law Sections 1709-a, 2503-a, and 2801  
Penal Law Sections 120.16 and 120.17  
8 NYCRR Section 100.2

Refer also to Policies  
3410 - Code of Conduct  
3420 - Anti-Harassment in the School District  
7550 - Dignity for All Students  
6121 - Sexual Harassment

Adoption Date:       October 20, 2015