

Section A - Introduction

It is the policy of the Board of Education to foster an environment which maximizes student learning and employee performance, and a climate of civility among students and employees of the district. The Board recognizes that there are certain behaviors and types of conduct that, if tolerated, would have a significant negative impact upon the learning environment and to complete effective teaching and learning. These behaviors, characterized as hazing, bullying, or aggressive behavior, will not be tolerated.

Section B – Jurisdiction

The provisions of this policy shall be in force:

1. In any physical area attendant to school or District-sponsored or related activities, whether or not such area is on school or District property (including but not limited to, school buildings and lands, District offices), or at any school-sponsored or related activities, performances, extracurricular and athletic events, school-sponsored travel at other venues; and
2. On means of school-supplied or sanctioned transportation to or from any of the above; and
3. With respect to activities or events at other locations, if the administration determines that the incident bears a nexus (i.e. impact or connection) to the school, safety at school, or is disruptive to the educational environment.

In addition to the above jurisdiction, the administration is authorized to establish a Code of Conduct that imposes progressive loss of privileges by reason of any conduct by a student in violation of these policies wherever the conduct or event occurs. Students who participate in extracurricular activities such as inter-scholastic athletic, drama, fine arts and other competitions or who participate in clubs and activities are representatives of our schools, and as such are expected to conform their behavior to these policies as a condition to continued enjoyment of these privileges.

Section C - Definitions

1. Hazing shall be defined as:
 - a. Any form of initiation and/or right of passage, whereby the perpetrator(s) applies physical, psychological, emotional, and/or mental threats or actions against another, customarily in an initiation setting, which often self perpetuates. The intent of such behavior is to aggrandize the perpetrator(s) within a vertical authoritarian hierarchy, and to degrade, humiliate, harass, harm, or intimidate the recipient; or

- b. When any students is subjected to verbal or physical harassment, mental or physical discomfort, intimidation, embarrassment, ridicule, bullying, or demeaning activity by any individual, student or staff member, or by a group of students.

2. Bullying shall be defined as:

When one or more individuals inflict physical, verbal, or emotional abuse on another individual or individuals, including, but not limited to: physical violence and attacks; verbal taunts, name calling and putdowns; threats and intimidation; extortion or unpermitted taking of money or possessions; ostracization and exclusion from the peer group.

3. Aggressive Behavior shall be defined as:

Any expression, direct or indirect, verbal or behavioral, of intent or threat to inflict harm, injury, or damage to persons or property.

Section D – Violations

Any single act of hazing, bullying, or aggressive behavior will be considered a Category II infraction in accordance with Policy 8410: Disciplinary Action Relative to Student Misconduct. Violations will be subject to the procedures of Policy 8410 and may include suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Adopted: April 11, 2005