

Adopted: 12/16/1997
Revised: 6/17/2008

Saint Paul Public Schools Policy

501.00

501.00 HAZING PROHIBITION

1. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, other employee of the School District or member of the Board of Education shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
2. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, other employee of the School District or member of the Board of Education shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
3. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
4. Prohibition of hazing extends to behavior that occurs on or off school property during and after school hours.
5. A person who engages in an act that violates the district's prohibition of hazing or any law prohibiting hazing in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.
6. The School District shall act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, other employee of the School District or member of the Board of Education who is found to have violated this policy.

DEFINITIONS

1. "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:
 - Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 - Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the students to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 - 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.
 - Any activity or communication 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.

- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of the School District policies or regulations.
2. “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 need not be an official school organization to fall under this definition.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. 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 School District official designated by this policy.
2. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to the Human Resources Department or to the Office of the Superintendent.
3. Teachers, administrators, volunteers, contractors, other employees of the School District and members of the Board of Education shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or that which may constitute hazing, shall inform the building principal immediately.
4. Submission of a good-faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant’s or reporter’s future employment, grades or work assignments.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

1. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the School District shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the Executive Director to whom the principal reports or a third party designated by the School District.
2. The School District may take immediate steps to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing. Upon completion of the investigation, the School 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 shall be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior.

REPRISAL

The School District shall discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, other employee of the School District or member of the Board of Education 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 proceedings or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.69

CROSS REFERENCES:

506.00, Student Discipline

415.00, Harassment, Violence and Other Offensive Behavior