

Wilson Area School District

Hazing

Purpose The opportunity for students to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities and interscholastic athletics sponsored by the district is a privilege extended to district students, which may be suspended or revoked under certain circumstances. The district shall strive to provide a safe and positive education, which includes extracurricular, co-curricular, and interscholastic athletic offerings. Hazing, as defined in this policy, regardless of the form it takes, shall not be tolerated. Behavior, which constitutes hazing, shall be disciplined and governed by the provisions of this policy.

Definitions For purposes of this policy hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student or causes willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in any organization recognized by the Board.

Endanger the physical health shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or any activity that induces, causes or requires a student to perform a duty or task which involves the commission of a crime; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

Authority The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.

The Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer, advisor or district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.

The Board encourages students who have knowledge of an actual or potential hazing incident, or have been subjected to hazing, to promptly report such incidents to any coach, sponsor of any school-sponsored activity, volunteer, administrator or district employee, who shall immediately notify the building principal.

The building principal will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.

**Delegation
Of
Responsibility**

It shall be the responsibility of all district employees, including without limitation, teachers, advisors, coaches, and administrators, and any sponsors and volunteers, to protect the rights, safety, and welfare of all students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of hazing. Any and all information received by such individuals and all knowledge or reports of hazing, or anticipated hazing, shall be reported to the appropriate building principal.

If a student obtains information or hears about an actual or potential hazing incident the student shall immediately report this information to the appropriate adult supervisor of the activity. The teacher, advisor, coach, sponsor, or volunteer shall immediately notify the appropriate building principal who will, in turn, initiate immediate measure to address the situation, as set forth in this policy.

The administration shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, advisors, and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks and verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program.

Guidelines

Complaint Procedure

1. When a student believes that s/he has knowledge of an actual or potential hazing incident, or have been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to any coach, sponsor of any school-sponsored activity, volunteer, administrator or district employee who upon receipt of a report of hazing shall immediately inform the building principal.

2. The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing and report the incident to the Superintendent or designee.
3. The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Findings of the investigation shall be provided to the complainant, the accused, and others directly involved, as appropriate. If the report concerns employee conduct, a copy shall also be filed with the Superintendent or designee.
4. In the event the hazing incident involves, or will involve, illegal activity, the appropriate policing agencies shall be notified.

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the following disciplinary measures may be imposed:

1. A student found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary measures set forth at the discretion of the administration including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school, indefinite suspension from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities, and interscholastic athletics, for a period ranging from one (1) calendar year from the date of adjudication through the violator's senior year of high school.
2. In addition, other disciplinary measures may be applicable and/or appropriate as defined in Board policies.
3. Failure to report a substantiated finding of hazing may result in disciplinary action.
4. A student found to have made false statements in connection with this policy shall be subject to the same disciplinary measures as those found to have actually violated the policy.

This policy shall be applicable to any and all incidents of hazing involving district students participating in organizations recognized by the Board regardless of whether they occurred on or off school grounds and/or outside of the normally scheduled school year, including without limitation during summer recess months and other non-school days.