

# ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: June 21, 2007

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions</p> <p>3. Authority SC 510, 511 Pol. 122, 123</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">247. HAZING</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy <b>hazing</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Endanger the physical health</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Endanger the mental health</b> 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.</p> <p>Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.</p> <p>The district will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who 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.</p> <p>The building principal, upon receiving a report of hazing, shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline as stated in the Allentown School District Official Code of Conduct and/or the Allentown School District Athletic Code of Conduct to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.</p> <p>Through the distribution of copies of this policy, the policy's publication in student handbooks, and verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor of any school-sponsored activity, at the start of the season or program, the district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Complaint Procedure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When a student believes that s/he has 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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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. A copy of the report shall be filed with the Director of Community and Student Services. If the report concerns employee conduct, a copy shall also be filed with the Superintendent or designee.</li> </ol>

4. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall impose appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity. Some findings may necessitate reporting to appropriate law enforcement personnel.
5. Victims and their parents/guardians shall be made aware of appropriate counseling, agency services and safety plan developments described in district's victimization procedures.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 511

Board Policy – 122, 123