

WALLINGFORD- SWARTHMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: December 5, 2016

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions 24 P.S. 5352</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 hazing is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding; 2. Forced calisthenics; 3. Exposure to the elements; 4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; 5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or 6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. <p>As used in this context, “willful” shall mean “intentional” and shall not refer to the actions of any individual who is coerced to take action pursuant to this policy.</p>
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<p>24 P.S. 5352</p>	<p>For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy, student activity or organization is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.</p> <p>School setting shall include, but not be limited to, the school, school grounds, school vehicles or district provided transportation, bus stops, and any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the district. School setting shall include nondistrict property, facilities, or activities where hazing is conducted by Board recognized student activity or organization.</p>
<p>3. Authority 24 P.S. 511 24 P.S. 5354 Pol. 122, 123</p>	<p>The Board prohibits any form of hazing in the school setting by any person. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in any hazing activity.</p> <p>The Board directs that no student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore 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 the building principal.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.</p> <p>District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual or student activity or organization found to be in violation of this policy.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines 24 P.S. 5354</p>	<p>In addition to posting this policy on the district’s website, the district shall annually provide copies of this policy to all athletic coaches.</p>

<p>24 P.S. 511 24 P.S. 5354 Pol. 218, 233, 317</p> <p>24 P.S. 511 24 P.S. 5353 Pol. 317</p>	<p><u>Complaint Procedure</u></p> <p>When a student believes that the student has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.</p> <p>The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.</p> <p>The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, including the recommended disposition of the complaint.</p> <p>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Conduct/Discipline Code. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.</p> <p>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach or sponsor affiliated with the activity planned, directed, encouraged, assisted, condoned, or ignored any form of hazing, coach or sponsor will be disciplined appropriately. Discipline could include dismissal from the position as coach or sponsor and/or discipline up to and including termination for district employees.</p> <p>Any disciplinary action imposed by the district shall be in addition to any penalty that may be imposed under federal, state or local law.</p> <p>The district shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.</p> <p>Retaliation against students, staff or other persons who report hazing pursuant to this policy or who participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. The Board deems retaliatory acts as harmful and shall take appropriate action against students who retaliate against any student, staff or other person who reports alleged hazing or participates in related proceedings. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. 511</p> <p>Antihazing Law – 24 P.S. 5351 et seq</p> <p>Board Policy – 122, 123, 218, 233, 317, 916</p>
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