



Responsible Office: Office of the General Counsel

BOARD POLICY 5720

HAZING PROHIBITED

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) is committed to providing safe and respectful environments free from hazing within its schools, buses, and other facilities, and at Washoe County School District (District) sponsored events.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Hazing" is any method of initiation into or affiliation with a student organization that endangers an individual physically and/or mentally regardless of whether the recipient is a willing participant. Hazing activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Any physical activity such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of food, liquid, drugs or other substance or any other brutal treatment or other forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the mental or physical health of the person.
 - b. Any mentally embarrassing, harassing, or ridiculing behaviors that create psychological shocks, including but not limited to such activities as engaging in public stunts and buffoonery, morale degradation or humiliating games and activities.
 - c. Any situation which subjects the individual to extreme stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, or forced conduct which produces pain, physical discomfort, or adversely affects the mental health or dignity of an individual.
 - d. Any expectations or commands that force an individual to engage in an act that violates state or federal law or school district policies or is contrary to his/her genuine moral and/or beliefs (e.g., lewd conduct or public profanity).

2. "Student organization," means a group, club, team, or other organization sanctioned by the District and having students as its primary members or participants. It applies to all grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events.

POLICY

1. The District prohibits hazing on its properties and in its educational programs and activities. No employee or student of the District acting as an individual or part of a group shall condone, permit, direct, encourage, or engage in hazing.
2. Any person who knowingly witnesses or fails to report knowledge of any incidents of hazing may be considered to be a participant in the hazing.
3. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
4. The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to adopt an Administrative Regulation to implement and maintain the purpose of this Board Policy. The Superintendent shall include in the Administrative Regulation the following provisions:
 - a. Methods for reporting incidents of hazing;
 - b. Guidance for school-site administrators including bullying investigation requirements and procedures;
 - c. Individuals found to be engaging in behavior prohibited by this Board Policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action;
 - d. Behavior which is or may be considered criminal in nature will be referred to law enforcement; and
 - e. Communication of this Board Policy, any accompanying regulations or site-based protocols to employees, students, parents/guardians, and the community to address the seriousness of hazing.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 5100, Student Behavior; and
 - b. Board Policy 5700, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment.

2. This Board Policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include:
 - a. Chapter 200, Crimes Against the Person; and
 - b. Chapter 388, System of Public Instruction, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 388.121 – 388.1459, inclusive, Provision of Safe and Respectful Learning Environment.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
09/24/2024	1.0	Adopted