

5140 POLICY - Hazing

It is the goal of the Utica Community Schools to promote an environment which fosters development of the self-worth and dignity of its students. Hazing activities are inherently hazardous and may place victims at risk of physical and/or emotional damage. Consequently, hazing in all of its various forms and practices is absolutely prohibited.

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5100, Student Conduct and Policies on Suspension and Expulsion

Policy
Adopted: 1/11/99
Re-Adopted: 6/11/2007

Board of Education Utica Community Schools



5140 RULES AND REGULATIONS - Hazing

Hazing shall be defined as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group or organization which endangers the physical safety of a student, produces mental or physical discomfort, causes embarrassment, fright, humiliation, harassment or ridicule, or degrades the student regardless of the willingness on the part of the student or the student's parents/guardians to participate in any such activities.

Without intending to limit the generality of the foregoing definition, hazing may include the following willful acts with or without the consent of the student or the student's parents/guardians:

- I. Physical injury, assault or battery
- II. Kidnapping or imprisonment
- III. Intentionally placing at risk of severe mental or emotional harm (putting "over the edge")
- IV. Degradation, humiliation, or compromising of moral or religious values
- V. Forced consumption of any liquid, solid, gas or illegal substance
- VI. Swirlies
- VII. Ritualistic initiation rites
- VIII. Mandatory personal servitude
- IX. Placing an individual in physical danger (at risk) which includes abandonment
- X. Impairment of physical liberties which include curfews or other interference with academic endeavors
- XI. Cutting or shaving of hair from head, face or other body parts
- XII. Tying of hands and/or feet
- XIII. Covering of head with bag or blindfolding
- XIV. Dressing of students in inappropriate attire such as clothing of the opposite sex
- XV. Applying any substance to the body such as make-up, grease paint, peanut butter, food, or spraying student with shaving cream, vegetable sprays or anything else of a similar nature

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: Appropriate disciplinary actions will be taken against students or school district employees who participate in, aid, or abet hazing in any of its various forms and practices, as described above. Furthermore, the school district may cease its support of the continued operation of any group, team or organization, whether curricular, co-curricular or extra curricular in nature, which participates in, aids, or abets hazing. Administrators will make recommendations for disciplinary action based on the particulars and severity of the case in question. Discipline could range from warnings, detentions, and suspensions up to and including a recommendation for expulsion. Local law enforcement authorities may also be notified depending on the severity of the offense.

Rules and Regulations
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Superintendent of Schools