

Policy

Hazing Policy

I. Introduction

Hazing undermines the mission of the District by contributing to toxic groups and environments where other forms of abuse are more likely to thrive. Hazing threatens students' health and safety due to its intimidating, harassing, and often violent nature. Enacting and upholding clear policies that prohibit hazing is a vital strategy for mitigating harm and even death.

Importantly, anti-hazing policies not only prohibit harmful behavior, they can also shape healthy group behaviors that promote inclusive campus communities to support ethical student leadership, well-being, and belonging.

II. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, "hazing" means:

- As defined by the provisions in RIGL 11-21-1, any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. This conduct shall include, but not be limited to, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student or any other person, or which subjects the student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation;
- engaging in any offensive or dangerous physical contact, restraint, abduction, or isolation of a student;
- requiring or encouraging a student to perform any dangerous, painful, offensive, or demeaning physical or verbal act, including the ingestion of any substance; inappropriate exposure to the elements, deprivation of sleep or rest, or extensive isolation;
- subjecting a student to any dangerous, painful, harmful, offensive, or demeaning conduct, or to conduct reasonably likely to create extreme mental distress;
- harassment by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable, or degrading tasks or activities which may result in harm or bodily injury to an individual; or
- to play abusive and humiliating tricks on an individual for the purpose of initiation.

III. Policy

The Chariho Regional School District shall not permit hazing as a condition of membership in, or initiation into, any activity, class, team, group, or organization sponsored by, or permitted to operate under, the auspices of a school of the district.

Hazing is prohibited:

- on school grounds;
- on property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- at school-sponsored or school-related activities;
- at functions or programs whether on or off school grounds;
- at school bus stops; or
- on school buses or other vehicles owned, leased, or used by the school district.

Hazing is also prohibited at a location, activity, function, or program that is not school-related if the act or acts in question

- Create(s) a hostile environment at school for the target;
- Infringe(s) on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- Materially and substantially disrupt(s) the educational process or the orderly operation of a school; or
- Is intended to be or related to any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person.

Under this policy retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports hazing, related bullying, or provides information during any investigation of hazing and related bullying, or witnesses bullying, or has reliable information about hazing or related bullying.

IV. Protocol

The Superintendent of Schools will establish protocols and procedures consistent with this policy which shall include:

- Requirement of any employee to report knowledge or allegations of hazing
- Include Hazing Offenses in the Code of Student Behavior
- Addressing the Hazing Policy and expectations in preseason athletic meetings
- Ensuring students know how to report Hazing and related bullying to school administration.
- Ensure the matter is investigated and communication to families is made
- As appropriate, notify local law enforcement

Rhode Island General Laws

§ 11-21-1. Penalty for hazing.

(a) Any organizer of, or participant in, an activity constituting hazing, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500), or punished by imprisonment for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one year, or both.

(b) "Hazing" as used in this chapter, means any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. This conduct shall include, but not be limited to, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced

consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student or any other person, or which subjects the student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

History of Section.

G.L. 1909, ch. 277, § 29; P.L. 1909, ch. 431, § 1; G.L. 1923, ch. 395, § 31; G.L. 1938, ch. 606, § 31; G.L. 1956, § 11-21-1; P.L. 1986, ch. 194, § 1; P.L. 1990, ch. 494, § 1.

§ 11-21-2. Penalty for school official permitting hazing.

Every person, being a teacher, superintendent, commandant, or other person in charge of any public, private, parochial, or military school, college or other educational institution, who shall knowingly permit any activity constituting hazing, as defined in § 11-21-1, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

History of Section.

G.L. 1909, ch. 277, § 30; P.L. 1909, ch. 431, § 1; G.L. 1923, ch. 395, § 32; G.L. 1938, ch. 606, § 32; G.L. 1956, § 11-21-2; P.L. 1986, ch. 195, § 1.

§ 11-21-3. Tattooing or permanent disfigurement.

Every person being a student, or being a person in attendance at any public, private, parochial, or military school, college, or other educational institution, who shall tattoo or knowingly and willfully permanently disfigure the body, limbs, or features of any fellow student or person attending the institution by the use of nitrate of silver or any like substance, or by any other means, shall be held guilty of a crime of the degree of mayhem, and shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned not exceeding ten (10) years nor less than one year.

History of Section.

G.L. 1909, ch. 277, § 31; P.L. 1909, ch. 431, § 1; G.L. 1923, ch. 395, § 33; G.L. 1938, ch. 606, § 33; G.L. 1956, § 11-21-3.

Adopted and Effective