

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

POLICY 5131.1

HAZING

The Cherry Hill Board of Education believes that an integral part of each student's academic, personal and social growth is the acquisition of life skills that will assure success over the entire course of his/her life's journey. It is the policy of the Board of Education and school district that hazing activities are inconsistent with the educational process and will be prohibited at all times. Hazing is defined as, in connection with the initiation of applicants to or members of a student organization, when a person knowingly or recklessly promotes or engages in any conduct, other than competitive athletic events under the direction of authorized personnel for the purposes associated with team or individual sports, which places or may place another person in danger of bodily injury or which may adversely affect another person's mental health or dignity. Student organization means any fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, team, gang or service, social, athletic or similar group, whose members are primarily students or intend to be students.

No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school district will encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, will plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing.

Administrators, faculty members, and all other employees of the school district will be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, involved students will be informed by the discovering school employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and will be required to end all hazing activities immediately. All hazing incidents will be reported immediately to the building principal.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, and may be liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with state law. The Superintendent or designee will develop guidelines to implement this policy.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 2C:40-3 Makes hazing a criminal offense – disorderly offense

Approved: 10/23/00

Revised: 10/23/01