

EUT POLICY ON STUDENT HAZING

Maine statute defines injurious hazing as "any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school".

It is the policy of the EUT that injurious hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group or organization affiliated with the EUT, are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times.

“Harassing behavior” includes acts of intimidation and any other conduct that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student or staff member.

“Acts of intimidation” include extortion; menacing; direct or indirect threats of violence; incidents of violence; bullying; statements or taunting of a malicious and/or derogatory nature that intentionally endanger the mental or physical health of another person; and property damage or theft.

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

Persons not associated with EUT who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to ejection from school property and/or other measures as may be available under the law.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

In the case of an organization affiliated with this school unit which authorizes hazing, penalties may include rescission of permission for the organization to operate on school property or to receive any other benefit of affiliation with the school unit.

These penalties shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator or organization may be subject.

The Building Administrator shall assume responsibility for administering this policy. In the event that an individual or organization disagrees with an action - or lack of action - on the part of the Administrator as he/she carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the Director. The ruling of the Director, with respect to the provisions of this policy, shall be final.

This right of appeal does not apply to student suspensions of ten days or less, or to matters submitted to grievance procedures under applicable collective bargaining agreements.

A copy of this policy shall be included in all school, parent, and faculty handbooks or otherwise distributed to all school employees and students.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA §6553

Adopted: May 2022