

## **SOUHEGAN Policy**

### **JICFA - HAZING**

It is the policy of the District that no student or employee of the District shall participate in or be members of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree related to the school or to a school activity. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned by the Board of Education shall engage or participate in hazing.

For the purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as an activity, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the Board of Education.

"Endanger the physical health" shall include, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled dangerous substance; or any forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

"Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by the Board of Education is conditioned, directly or indirectly, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

This policy is not intended to deprive School District authorities from taking necessary and appropriate disciplinary action toward any student or employee. Students or employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion for students and employment termination for employees.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in the school District.

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**{For Souhegan High School ONLY}** In addition, Chapter 631:7 of the NH Criminal Code makes “Student Hazing” that occurs in connection with High School Students a criminal offense. The Criminal Code defines student hazing as “any act directed toward a student, or any coercion or intimidation of a student to act or to participate in or submit to any act when: (1) Such act is likely or would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to cause physical or psychological injury to any person; and (2) Such act is a condition of initiation into, admission into, continued membership in or association with any organization.” It is also a criminal offense for any individual (including students who submit to hazing) to fail to report student hazing to law enforcement or educational institution authorities. Chapter 631:7 also states “the implied or express consent of any person toward whom an act of hazing is directed shall not be a defense”. Secondary Educational Institutions are required by law “to take reasonable measures within the scope of its authority to prevent student hazing” and “to report to law enforcement authorities any hazing reported to it by others or of which it otherwise has knowledge.” The School Board instructs the Superintendent to establish procedures to comply with this law.

### **Legal Reference:**

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(7), Policy Development, Student Hazing*

*NH Criminal Code Title LXII, RSA 631:7, Student Hazing **{For High School ONLY}***

**Adopted: March 20, 2008**