

North Providence School Department Hazing Policy	Approved: 11/16/2022

I. Introduction

Hazing is considered to be any activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them, regardless of a person’s willingness to participate. Hazing undermines the missions of the District by contributing to toxic groups and environments where other forms of abuse are more likely to thrive.

Hazing is a threat to the health and safety of students due to its intimidating, harassing, and often violent nature (StopHazing, n.d.). Enacting and upholding clear policies that prohibit hazing is a vital strategy for mitigating harm to student athletes.

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

II. Definitions

For purposes of this procedural directive, “hazing” means:

- harassment by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable, or degrading tasks or activities which may result in harm or bodily injury to an individual
- to play abusive and humiliating tricks on an individual for the purpose of initiation
- 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.

III. Policy

The North Providence Public Schools 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.

Actions considered as hazing may include, but are not limited to:

- 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

IV. Directive to Establish Protocol

The District shall establish and maintain protocols and procedures consistent with this policy.

Legal Reference:

[§ 11-21-1 Penalty for hazing.](#)

[§ 11-21-2 Penalty for school official permitting hazing.](#)

[§ 11-21-3. Tattooing or permanent disfigurement.](#)

Approved: 11/16/2022