

HAZING

The Derry Cooperative School District prohibits hazing by students, employees, or volunteers in connection with any school-sponsored or sanctioned program, activity, or organization, as well as formation of or membership in any secret organization in any way related to such programs and activities. Hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, employee, volunteer, group or organization are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times.

For the purposes of this Policy, the term “organization” includes any association, society, athletic group, club, service group, or other similar groups whose members are or include students, operating at or in conjunction with the Derry Cooperative School District.

New Hampshire law 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.”

Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, any activities involving participants in school co-curricular or athletic programs intended as an initiation, rite of passage, or test of participants, such as a dare or an order to perform a humiliating, dangerous or illegal act, or any other conduct that has the effect of intimidating, degrading, or physically or psychologically harming the participants. Hazing includes acts 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 activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual. Hazing also includes 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.

It is not a defense to a hazing activity that the student gave implied or express consent to participate in such activity.

Students or employees who violate this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include expulsion for students and termination of employment for employees.

Volunteers or individuals not associated with the District who fail to abide by this Policy may be subject to ejection from school property and/or other measures as may be available under law.

Any organization that violates this Policy may have its permission to operate on school property or its affiliation with the District rescinded.

All hazing reported to the District or which any District staff member or volunteer has knowledge of shall be promptly reported to law enforcement, as required by RSA 631:7, Student Hazing.

A copy of this Policy will be made available to each student and employee in the Derry Cooperative School District.

*Legal References: RSA 631:17, Student Hazing
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306:04(a)(7), Student Hazing*