HAZING

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 Salem School Board. Hazing includes acts that tend to inflict unnecessary physical punishment, an attempt to embarrass, or disconcert by ridicule or persistent criticism, tends to injure, degrade, or disgrace or to place an individual in a position so characterized.

Any initiation or activity that interferes in any way with the proper and appropriate function of a school or school related activity, and any student’s opportunity to have that activity available, is considered hazing and is prohibited. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned by the Salem School Board shall engage or participate in hazing.

"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, beverage, drug or 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 Salem School Board 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.

Administrators and supervisors are responsible to notify all participants such acts are prohibited, to take action necessary to prevent such acts, and to discipline any participants that engage in such acts.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in the school district at the outset of each school year.

Adopted 7/29/80
Revised 1/13/09