

PROHIBITION OF HAZING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 536 of the Acts of 1985, the Dedham School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the Principal including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the District are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.

Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student and could involve suspension from school for up to three days.

Any student who participates in the hazing of another student or other person may, upon the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, be suspended from school for up to ten (10) school days.

Any student determined by the Principal to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be recommended for expulsion from school but will receive no less disciplinary action than that of a participant.

In all cases relating to hazing, students will receive procedural due process.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 269:17, 18, 19

HAZING

In the Dedham Public Schools:

CH. 269, S.17. CRIME OF HAZING; DEFINITION; PENALTY

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean 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. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to be contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

CH. 269, S.18. DUTY TO REPORT HAZING

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

CH 269, S.19. HAZING STATUTES TO BE PROVIDED; STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY REQUIRED

Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgment stating that such group, organization or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education, certifying that such institution has complied with the provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Regents and, in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such a report.

CROSS REF.: JICFB, Bullying



DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOLD HARMLESS AND HAZING LAW AGREEMENTS
HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

The Organization stated on this application, _____ in consideration of the Town of Dedham, allowing it and its members and associates to use the premises of the Town of Dedham for the purpose of does hereby remise, release and forever discharge the said Town of Dedham and its heirs, successors, administrators and assigns from any and all actions, causes of actions, claims and demands for, upon or by reason of any damage, loss, injury or suffering which heretofore has been, or which hereafter may be sustained by me or members of my organization in consequence of any accident and resulting injury from said use.

AND FURTHERMORE, we the said Organization _____ Hereby expressly stipulates and agrees in consideration of the aforesaid payment/use, to indemnify and hold forever harmless the said Town of Dedham, against loss from any and all further claims, demands or actions that may hereafter at any time be made or brought against the said Town of Dedham by said Organization and its members and associates or anyone on its behalf for the purpose of enforcing a further claim for damages on account of the injuries sustained in consequences of the aforesaid accident.

SIGNATURE of Organization Representative: _____

DATE: _____

HAZING LAW AGREEMENT

On behalf of the said Organization, Team or Student Group _____ I certify that the said Organization, Team or Student Group has obtained a copy of Massachusetts General law (MGL), Chapter 269, Section 17-19, an Act Prohibiting the Practice of Hazing, and has distributed a copy of the Law to its members, plebes, pledges and applicants for membership; and that said Organization, Team or Student Group Understands and agrees to comply with the Law.

SIGNATURE of Designated Officer or Representative: _____

DATE: _____

WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____