

## ANTI-HAZING POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

The Board recognizes that all students need a safe, disciplined environment that meets their educational needs. This policy prohibits hazing in Hardy County Schools as a part of, or during, co-curricular activities, extracurricular activities, and/or any activity on school property or any activity that is an extension of the school day/school program .

### II. DEFINITIONS

Hazing Definitions: Any act or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student; any act or situation which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any organization operating under the sanctions of the school; any act or situation that is of a brutal physical nature; any act or situation which adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the individual, including but not limited to performance of embarrassing and/or required stunts, wearing costumes, speaking in a harassing manner, interrogating new members, lineup, scavenger hunt, kidnapping, personal services, authority over new members, anything that tends to diminish the self-esteem or dignity, or categorize the new member and/or members as a second-class citizen.

Co-curricular Activities: Activities that are closely related to identifiable academic programs and/or areas of study that serve to complement academic curricula including, but not limited to, band, band camp, drama club, student council, vocational student organizations, or newspaper staff.

Extra-curricular Activities: Activities that are not related to academic programs such as sports, pep rallies, and chess clubs.

### III. Program Regulations

A . All hazing in Hardy County Schools' sponsored student organizations or an activity is strictly forbidden. Students violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary procedures that may include suspension and possible expulsions.

- B . Each school principal shall inform all students and school personnel that hazing activities are forbidden and students may be subject to disciplinary procedures.
- C . Principals may temporarily suspend from school any student who fails to abide by the anti-hazing policy.
- D . Hardy County Board of Education may expel from school any student who fails to abide by the anti-hazing policy.

IV . Procedures

- A . It is the responsibility of all students and/or employees to report any hazing incident(s) to the school principal. Students may report to a teacher in the event that an administrator is unavailable. School employees who encourage, permit, or ignore hazing incidents shall be subject to disciplinary measures.
- B . The school principal or assistant principal shall investigate all reported hazing incidents promptly.

V . Discipline and Other Actions

Such actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling, warning, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and/or expulsion.

In determining the appropriate response and/or punishment, the school/county administration and/or Board of Education shall consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior.

SOURCE : Hardy County Board of Education Minutes

DATE : April 8, 2002

LEGAL SOURCE : West Virginia Code §18A -5-1a - West Virginia Safe Schools Act of 1995 - West Virginia State Board Policy 4373

