

ANTI-HAZING

I. PURPOSE

To prohibit hazing by or directed at any Shelby County Schools student or associated with any Shelby County Schools student organization.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all schools, organizations, students, volunteers, third parties, and employees within the Shelby County Schools.

III. DEFINITIONS

Hazing means any intentional or reckless act in this state, on or off LEA [Shelby County Schools] property, by one (1) student acting alone or with others, that is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student or that induces or coerces a student to endanger that student's mental or physical health or safety. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization.¹

IV. POLICY STATEMENT

Shelby County Schools seeks to foster a safe and supportive environment for students to learn and excel in both curricular/co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Therefore, hazing and similar acts are strictly prohibited by any student or organization operating under the sanction of the District. Further, students, employees, and volunteers of the District and other individuals associated with the District are prohibited from engaging in, planning, promoting, allowing, or failing to properly report hazing activities.

Knowledge of hazing activities should be reported in accordance with the policy on Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation, and Cyber-bullying (#6046) and shall be made known to the department responsible for student discipline.

The Superintendent or designee shall make available information regarding hazing. The information should include examples of activities that are not considered hazing such as regular/customary practices/conditioning and examples of activities that are considered hazing including, but are not limited to:

- Paddling
- Branding
- Clean-up duty for new members only

- All forms of physical activity deemed dangerous or harmful. i.e. application of foreign substances to the body
- Forcing, coercing, or requiring students to ingest alcohol, illegal or controlled substance, or any foreign or unusual substances
- Forcing or coercing students to dress in embarrassing or degrading attire or undress inappropriately
- Any act which is likely to compromise dignity, cause shame or cause a person to be the object of ridicule
- Any act undertaken in connection with an initiation of an individual or group for membership to any athletic team, club sport, or student organization

This policy shall be distributed or made available to each student at the beginning of each school year. During the first month of each new school year, time shall be set aside to specifically discuss the policy and its ramifications as a criminal offense and the penalties that may be imposed by the district.

This policy is not intended to address corporal punishment, which is prohibited and is not an approved disciplinary measure for Shelby County Schools or to address allowable progressive disciplinary measures used in lieu of suspension such as campus beautification, cafeteria duty, etc. (See policy 6022 Student Conduct).

Failure of any individual to comply with the provisions of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The department charged with student discipline is responsible for implementing this policy.
- B. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

Legal References:
1. TCA 49-2-120

Cross References:
1. 6022 Student Conduct
2. 6046 Harassment, Bullying, Intimidation, and Cyber-bullying
3. 6051 Interscholastic Athletics
4. 6064 Student Clubs and Organization