

HAZING

The Ellsworth School Committee (ESC) prohibits any and all hazing while on school property.

As defined by Maine statute 20-A M.R.S.A. § 6553, hazing is “any action or situation, including harassing behavior, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.”

The following shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator(s) or organization may be subject:

No employee of the Ellsworth School Department (ESD) shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities. Employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include dismissal.

No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in hazing activities. Any students failing to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

Any ESD-affiliated organization that authorizes hazing may be subject to penalties including, but not limited to, rescission of permission to operate on ESD property and/or to receive any other benefit of affiliation with the ESD.

Persons not associated with the ESD who violate this policy while on ESD property are subject to ejection from school property and/or other measures as may be applicable under state/local law and/or statutes.

The Superintendent is responsible for administering this policy. In the event an individual or organization disagrees with an action—or lack of action—on the part of the Superintendent as he/she carries out the provisions of this policy, that individual or organization may appeal to the ESC. The ruling of the ESC, with respect to the provisions of this policy, shall be final.

A copy of this policy shall be distributed annually to all ESD employees, parents, and students.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 6553

Cross Reference: ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
 ACAB – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Employees
 JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

Adopted: **March 14, 2000**

Revised: **October 18, 2005**
 October 2, 2006 (formatting, grammar only)