

HAZING

Maine statute defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of a student enrolled in a public school.”

It is the policy of the Gorham School Committee that injurious hazing activities of any type, either on or off school property, by any student, staff member, group or organization affiliated with the Gorham School Department, are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times.

No administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the Gorham School Department shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate injurious hazing activities. No student, including leaders of students’ organizations, shall plan, encourage, or engage in injurious hazing activities.

Persons not associated with the Gorham School Department who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to ejection from school property and/or other measures as may be available under the law.

Administrators, faculty members, students, and all other employees who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension, expulsion or other appropriate measures.

In the case of an organization affiliated with the Gorham School Department which authorizes hazing, penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to receive any other benefit of affiliation with the Gorham School Department.

These penalties shall be in addition to any civil or criminal penalties to which the violator or organization may be subject.

The Superintendent shall assume responsibility for administering this policy. In the event that 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 full School Committee. The ruling of the School Committee, with respect to the provisions of this policy, shall be final.

A copy of this policy shall be included in all school, parent, and faculty handbooks or otherwise distributed to all school employees and students.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA Section 6553

Cross Reference: AC – Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action
ACAA – Student Discrimination and Harassment
JICDA – Code of Conduct
JICK – Bullying
JICIA – Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JK – Student Discipline
JKF – Removal of Students with Disabilities

Adopted: June 10, 1992

Reviewed: February 13, 2002

Reviewed: April 2, 2012

