

Students

SUBJECT: HAZING OF STUDENTS

The BOCES is committed to providing a safe, productive, and positive learning environment within its schools. Hazing activities are demeaning and abusive behaviors that harm victims, are inconsistent with the educational goals of the BOCES, and may constitute criminal conduct. Consequently, hazing of students by other students or groups of students is strictly prohibited on BOCES property, in BOCES buildings, on school buses, by BOCES-sponsored groups, clubs, or teams, and at BOCES-sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off-campus. Hazing is prohibited regardless of the victim's apparent willingness to participate in the activity.

For purposes of this policy, the term "hazing" is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to join a group, regardless of their willingness to participate. Acts constituting hazing may range in severity from teasing or embarrassing a student to various forms of physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse. Hazing behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- a) Humiliation: socially offensive, isolating, or uncooperative behaviors.
- b) Substance abuse: abuse of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
- c) Other dangerous actions: hurtful, aggressive, destructive, and disruptive behaviors.

Hazing is a form of harassment and bullying and may constitute discrimination. Various BOCES policies and documents address discrimination and harassment of students. These policies and documents may include: Policy #3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the BOCES; Policy #3421 -- Title IX and Sex Discrimination; Policy #7550 -- Dignity for All Students; Policy #7551 -- Sexual Harassment of Students; and the BOCES' *Code of Conduct*. As such, the BOCES' response to reports of hazing will be handled in accordance with the applicable BOCES policies and/or documents.

Education Law Sections 10-18, 1709-a, 2503-a, and 2801
Penal Law Sections 120.16 and 120.17
8 NYCRR Section 100.2

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3410 -- Code of Conduct
#3420 -- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the BOCES
#3421 -- Title IX and Sex Discrimination
#7550 -- Dignity for All Students
#7551 -- Sexual Harassment of Students
BOCES *Code of Conduct*

Adoption Date: 12/12/24