*Policy*

HAZING

*Code* **JICFA** *Issued***DRAFT/19**

The district prohibits hazing by students, staff, and/or third parties as a part of any school-sponsored activity. All students and staff members will avoid any action that could be viewed as planning, directing, encouraging, assisting, or engaging in any hazing activity. Further, no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or district staff member will permit, condone, or tolerate any form of hazing.

For purposes of this policy, state law defines hazing as “the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence, or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other unauthorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate student of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting, or humiliating nature.”

Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, will be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.

Any student who feels he/she has been subjected to hazing is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with policy JII, *Student Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances*. All complaints will be investigated promptly and confidentially. The district prohibits retaliation or reprisal in any form against a student who has filed a complaint of hazing.

Any student or staff member who is found to have engaged in hazing will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination in the case of a staff member or expulsion in the case of a student. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials, as appropriate. The district will take all other reasonable steps to correct or rectify the situation.

The superintendent will be responsible for ensuring notice of this policy is provided to students, staff members, and parents/legal guardians.

Cf. GBEB, JICDA

Adopted ^

Legal References:

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 16-3-510 - Hazing unlawful.
2. Section 59-63-210 - Grounds for suspension, expulsion, or transfer.
3. Section 59-63-275 - Student hazing prohibited; definitions.

B. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-279 - Minimum standards of student conduct and disciplinary enforcement procedures to be implemented by local school districts.