

Reviewed: 5/9/2022

526 HAZING PROHIBITION

[Note: Charter schools are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will maintain and make available a model policy on student and staff hazing in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 121A.69. The MDE model policy differs from the MSBA/MASA model policy as it incorporates state and federal requirements related to harassment and discrimination which extends beyond the mandate of Minnesota Statutes section Minn. Stat. § 121A.69. Topics of harassment and discrimination are addressed in other MSBA/MASA policies. While charter schools are required to adopt a policy governing student and staff hazing, charter schools are not required to adopt any particular policy. MSBA recommends this policy.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of Crosslake Community School (CCS) and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. No student, teacher, Director, volunteer, contractor or other employee of CCS shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, Director, volunteer, contractor or other employee of CCS shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, Director, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with CCS' policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of hazing may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from CCS' property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
 - 2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 - 3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
 - 4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
 - 5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of CCS policies or regulations.
- B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- C. "On CCS' premises, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all CCS buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for CCS purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. CCS property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, CCS does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.
- D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.
- E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.
- F. "Student organization" means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an CCS' Director or Director's designee. A person may report hazing anonymously. However, CCS may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. CCS encourages the reporting party to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from CCS office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

The building Director or the Director's designee ("building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult CCS personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing directly to CCS' business manager or to the director. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the Director or CCS' business

manager by the reporting party or complainant.

The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- C. A teacher, Director, volunteer, contractor, and other school employees shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events which might include hazing. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing and shall inform the building report taker immediately. CCS' personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute hazing or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the hazing in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments or educational or work environment.
- E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.
- F. CCS will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with CCS' legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. CCS ACTION

- A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, CCS shall undertake or authorize an investigation by CCS officials or a third party designated by CCS.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate CCS officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students, or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing has occurred, CCS will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. CCS action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements ; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, and applicable CCS policies and regulations.
- E. CCS is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of CCS. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students involved in a hazing incident and who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law, based on a confirmed report.
- F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing committed by or directed against a child with a disability, CCS shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in hazing.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

CCS will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, Director volunteer, contractor or other employee of CCS who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall appear in CCS' Staff Handbook, CCS' Online Student and Family Handbook, and CCS' Seat-Based Student and Family Handbook.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of the Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents Under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of **Charter** School Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention [Applicable to Students and Staff])

Policy 526 Hazing Prohibition is also found in the Staff Handbook.

Policy 526 Hazing Prohibition is also found in the Online Student and Family Handbook.

Policy 526 Hazing Prohibition is also found in the Seat-Based Student and Family Handbook.