

## **Riverside School-Anti-Hazing Policy**

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the Riverside School holds that no student, employee or school organization under the control of Riverside Community Care shall engage in any activity/action of hazing on or off school property, or at school sanctioned events. Additionally, this policy will apply to all school organized/sanctioned events regardless of location.

M.G.L. c. [269, sec. 17](#) defines hazing as:

*any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.*

Any student or staff member who observes any act of hazing towards another student/staff member should report such information immediately to the Program Director or Assistant Program Director. The information should include the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the behaviors observed. All students and employees of the Riverside School are obligated by law to report all incidents of hazing to the Program Director and local police department.

Any student/s who are present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident to the Program Director. Failure to report may result in disciplinary action by the Riverside School including a re-entry meeting and up to three days suspension.

Any student/s who is an active participant in the hazing of another person may, upon approval of the Program Director, be suspended for up to five school days and must participate in a re-entry meeting as outlined in the policies and procedures.

Any student/s who are found to have been the organizer of a hazing event may be recommended for termination from the Riverside School following a meeting with necessary school personnel, parents and sending school district.

In any and all cases relating to hazing, students will receive procedural due process.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. [269, sec. 17](#), “Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined above, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. [269, sec. 18](#), “whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined above, and is at the scene of such crime, shall to the extent that such a person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such a crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.”

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [269:17](#), [18](#), [19](#)