



**Department  
of Athletics  
and Activities**

15701 E. 1st Ave., #200  
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## HAZING DIRECTIVE

The athletic program of the Aurora Public Schools is an integral part of the school curriculum and supports the goals of Vista 2015. Athletics is a venue where young people learn lifelong lessons that build upon those taught in the classroom. Through participation in athletics, students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence and develop skills to handle competitive situations.

Aurora Public Schools believe the safety and security of our students is a priority throughout the district. In an effort to provide a safe environment for our student/athletes, it is important that all athletes and their families understand our policy regarding hazing.

Please review the directive below. In order for students to participate in any athletic program, students and their parents must sign and return the Hazing Acknowledgement and Agreement form to the school's athletic office. In addition, this policy will be reviewed during the first practice, or prior to any organized participation in a sport.

### HAZING

Student initiations, hazing, personal servitude, and similar student-to-student, seniority-based activities are specifically prohibited by state law, Board of Education policy, and the Aurora Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. Violations of this directive shall result in severe disciplinary action by the school administration and **may result in the loss of privilege to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.** Additionally, students may be disciplined according to the Safe Schools Handbook.

Hazing means any activity by which a person recklessly endangers the health or safety of, or causes a risk of bodily injury to an individual for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student organization; except that "hazing" does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions, or authorized training activities conducted by members of the armed forces of the State of Colorado or the United States.

The following definitions are taken from C.R.S. 18-9-124, Hazing - Penalties - Legislative Declaration.

(1) (a) The general assembly finds that, while some forms of initiation constitute acceptable behavior, **hazing** sometimes degenerates into a dangerous form of intimidation and degradation. The general assembly also recognizes that although certain criminal statutes cover the more egregious **hazing** activities, other activities that may not be covered by existing criminal statutes may threaten the health of students or, if not stopped early enough, may escalate into serious injury.

(b) In enacting this section, it is not the intent of the general assembly to change the penalty for any activity that is covered by any other criminal statute. It is rather the intent of the general assembly to define **hazing** activities not covered by any other criminal statute.

July 2011



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(b) "**Hazing**" includes but is not limited to:

(I) Forced and prolonged physical activity;

(II) Forced consumption of any food, beverage, medication or controlled substance, whether or not prescribed, in excess of the usual amounts for human consumption or forced consumption of any substance not generally intended for human consumption;

(III) Prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in **hazing**.

(4) Any person who violates subsection (3) of this section commits class 3 misdemeanors.

The following definitions can be found in Aurora Public Schools Board of Education Policy JK.1-R, Student Discipline.

1. **THREAT TO STUDENT:** Threats of bodily injury, of damage to property or reputation or of economic loss made against a student. Also, acts or words in any media (including **hazing** or initiation rites) sufficiently pervasive and severe to interfere with the learning of a student or their participation in school-related activities.
2. **PROFANE TO STUDENT:** Profane, lewd or vulgar communications directed to any other student by any method or means, including verbally, electronically or by written words, photographs, or drawings. (Racial or sexual slurs, if severe in nature, may lead to an offense considered to be racial or sexual harassment.
3. **MISCONDUCT AWAY FROM SCHOOL.** Misconduct which does not take place at a school or at a school-related function may, in some cases result in student discipline if the misconduct is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel. Conduct which is disruptive to the school's educational process, or to the ability of a given child to concentrate on her/his studies, may be found to be detrimental to the welfare of pupils. In summary, just because something happens away from school doesn't necessarily mean that it will not be the basis of discipline at school.
4. **BULLYING:** Any written, verbal or pictorial expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof by a student that is intended to cause distress upon one or more persons and is sufficiently severe that it has the effect of 1) creating an intimidating, hostile, or significantly offensive environment for the learning or performance of school-related activities of any persons; or 2) unreasonably interfering with or disrupting the educational performance or participation in any other school-related activity of any person.

If you have any questions, please see your building athletic director or contact the District Department of Athletics & Activities.

**HAZING DIRECTIVE  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
AND AGREEMENT FORM**



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This is to acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the directive of the Aurora Public Schools on initiations and hazing. I am aware of the requirements and I agree to follow all rules and regulations stated by Aurora Public Schools and the State of Colorado regarding the prohibition of hazing. I understand that any violation of these rules and regulations will subject me to appropriate action taken by school administration including but not limited to removal from the team or activity, suspension and expulsion.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date