

## HAZING/INITIATION POLICY

File JFCK-2

Many student groups, classes or programs promote and condone time-honored traditions. Many of these traditions are wholesome and a positive part of the total experience. Unfortunately, some traditions from the past are both dangerous and illegal. These dangerous traditions often center on initiations and rites of passage required of younger students by their older counterparts. Many times these initiations are nothing more than disguised forms of hazing and may amount to bullying. These events can sometimes get out of hand and the physical and emotional welfare of all involved is at great risk.

The purpose of this policy is to make it clear to employees, parents and students that hazing and initiations are never to be part of our program. Quite often, acts of hazing and initiations can escalate to the point that the student is at risk. It is also quite possible that many acts of hazing and initiation will result in legal action being taken against the employee, student or even the school district.

The Montrose District has adopted a "ZERO-TOLERANCE" stance on the practice of initiation or hazing of students.

Any initiation or hazing incident reported to the school will be turned over to Law Enforcement. The reporting individual will have to disclose their name for the school to act on the report. Any student or employee who observes and does not attempt to stop or report such a violation can also be subject to disciplinary action. Repeated acts of hazing and initiation can result in further school action.

Adopted: July 2015

Reviewed: July 11, 2022