

LANCASTER-FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL/CROSSROADS CENTER FOR YOUTH

ANTI-HAZING AND BULLYING POLICY (Harassment, Intimidation, and Dating Violence)

Hazing means doing any act or coercing another(including the victim) to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person.

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are intentional written, verbal, or physical acts that a student exhibits toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes either mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property or at a school-sponsored activity.

Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, bullying, and/or dating violence does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

The District includes within the health curriculum age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education in grades 9 to 12. This instruction includes recognizing warning signs of dating violence and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Prohibited activities of any type, including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices, are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. No staff member shall encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate any hazing and/or bullying activities. No students are permitted to plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing and/or bullying.

All staff members are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances, or events that might include hazing, bullying, and/or dating violence. If any of the prohibited behaviors are planned or discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all such activities immediately. All hazing, bullying, and/or dating violence incidents are reported immediately to the office and probation staff, and appropriate discipline is administered.

LFCS/CCFY offers Life Skills sessions daily to facilitate a school climate that is free from hazing, bullying, and dating violence. Because of the close affiliation with the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, hazing, bullying, and dating violence situations are dealt with effectively through the Juvenile Court and the probation department.

Parents or guardians of any student involved in a prohibited incident will be notified, and to the extent permitted by law, have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident.

No one shall retaliate against an employee or student because he/she files a grievance or assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing regarding the charge of hazing, bullying, and/or dating violence of an individual.