



STAR ACADEMY BOSTON

ANTI-HAZING POLICY

Academic Year 2026-2027

Applies to	All students, employees, and school organizations under the control of Star Academy Boston, and any organization using School facilities or grounds
Legal reference	Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, Sections 17, 18, and 19
Read with	Student and Family Handbook 2026-2027, Part III and Appendix B; Faculty and Staff Handbook 2026-2027, Part VIII
Review	This Policy is reviewed every two years

1. THE SCHOOL'S POLICY

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 269, Sections 17 to 19, no student, employee, or school organization under the control of Star Academy Boston shall engage in hazing a student, whether on or off school property, or at a school-sponsored event regardless of location. No organization using facilities or grounds under the control of the School shall engage in hazing any person while on school property.

Hazing means any conduct or method of initiation into a student organization which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. It includes whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, and any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity likely to affect physical health or safety adversely, or which subjects a person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

2. REPORTING

- A student who observes what appears to be hazing must report it to the Directors, including the time, date, location, the names of identifiable participants, and the behavior observed.
- Students and employees are obliged by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.



- A student who is present at a hazing has an obligation to report it. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the School.
- An employee who witnesses or becomes aware of hazing reports it immediately to the Directors. There are no exceptions, and an employee may not promise confidentiality to a student, parent, or colleague who informs them of an allegation.

3. DISCIPLINE

A student who participates in hazing is subject to disciplinary action. A student determined by the Directors to have organized a hazing activity may be recommended for further disciplinary action, but will in no case receive less disciplinary action than a participant. Hazing is a Tier III infraction under the Student and Family Handbook and will most often result in suspension, dismissal, or expulsion. Decisions about consequences for Tier III infractions rest with the Directors.

In all cases relating to hazing, students receive procedural due process. Where a crime may have been committed, or where a child may have been subject to abuse or neglect reportable under Massachusetts law, law enforcement or the appropriate agency is notified.

4. COMPLIANCE

The School issues a copy of Sections 17, 18, and 19 of Chapter 269 to every student group, team, and organization under its authority, and to each of their members, at the start of each year, and collects a signed acknowledgment from an officer of each group. The Student and Family Handbook, which contains the text of the statute, is issued to every enrolled student annually. The School files the annual compliance report required by Section 19.

5. THE STATUTE

Chapter 269, Section 17. Crime of hazing; definition; penalty

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein 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 by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean 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.



Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Chapter 269, Section 18. Duty to report hazing

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such 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 crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Chapter 269, Section 19. Hazing statutes to be provided; statement of compliance and discipline policy required

Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgment stating that such group, organization or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education, certifying that such institution has complied with the provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Regents and, in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such a report.

6. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

This Policy is adopted by the Directors and is effective for the 2026-2027 academic year and thereafter, unless amended or replaced by the School. It supersedes and replaces in full the School's prior Anti-Hazing Policy and any earlier statement of the matters it covers, and is reviewed every two years.

Approved by the Directors of Star Academy Boston, Larisa Bankovsky and Margarita Druker.
Version 2026-2027.1 · Effective 08/23/2026.