



# TECH

## Freire Charter School

### **Anti-Hazing Policy**

At TECH Freire Charter School, we believe that the physical and emotional safety of our students and all members of the school community is of paramount importance. Any act of hazing violates our values, and hazing is therefore strictly prohibited in the TECH Freire community whether the act occurs on or off of school grounds.

#### **Hazing Defined**

Hazing is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization (which can include a TECH Freire club or athletic team). This includes but is not limited to:

- Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, or exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual
- Any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual
- Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned is presumed to be “forced” activity, whether or not an individual is willing to participate in such activity.

#### **Consequences for Committing Acts of Hazing**

TECH Freire may define hazing as an act of violence and therefore a violation of the Nonviolence Policy (See No Second Chances and Nonviolence Policy). **The TECH Freire Nonviolence Policy mandates a recommendation of expulsion for all acts of violence.**

Under Pennsylvania law, causing or participating in hazing is considered a third degree misdemeanor. The school will therefore notify the Philadelphia Police Department if it determines that hazing has taken place. Consequences imposed by the school are independent of and in addition to any penalties imposed under the law.