



Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.19 Anti-hazing policy.

Effective: October 7, 2021

Legislation: Senate Bill 126 - 134th General Assembly

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Hazing" and "organization" have the same meanings as in section 2903.31 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Institution of higher education" means the following:

(a) A state institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code;

(b) A nonprofit institution holding a certificate of authorization pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code;

(c) An institution holding a certificate of registration from the state board of career colleges and schools;

(d) A private institution exempt from regulation under Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code as prescribed in section 3333.046 of the Revised Code.

(B) Each institution of higher education shall develop an anti-hazing policy that prohibits students enrolled in an institution of higher education, or other individuals associated with an organization recognized by or operating under the sanction of an institution, from engaging in hazing or a violation of section 2903.31 of the Revised Code. The policy shall apply to an act conducted on or off-campus if the act is determined to constitute hazing or a violation of section 2903.31 of the Revised Code. The policy shall apply only if the hazing or violation of section 2903.31 of the Revised Code takes place between two or more people who are affiliated with the institution. The policy shall include all of the following:

(1) Rules prohibiting hazing;



- (2) A method to enforce the policy;
- (3) Appropriate penalties for violations of the policy, which may include any of the following:
 - (a) The imposition of fines;
 - (b) Withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or payment of fines;
 - (c) The revocation of permission for an organization to operate on campus or to otherwise operate under the recognition or sanction of the institution;
 - (d) The imposition of probation, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion.

A penalty imposed under the policy adopted under division (B) of this section shall be in addition to a penalty imposed for a violation of section 2903.31 of the Revised Code, the criminal laws of this state, or for a violation of any other rule of the institution to which the individual or organization who committed the violation may be subject.

(C) Each institution shall provide a copy of the policy, including the institution's rules, penalties, and method to enforce the policy, to each organization within the institution. Additionally, each institution shall post the policy on the institution's publicly accessible web site.

(D)(1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic year, each institution shall maintain a report of all violations of the institution's policy adopted under division (B) of this section or other state law regarding hazing that are reported to the institution. Each institution shall post the report on its publicly accessible web site. Each report shall include all of the following:

- (a) The name of the subject of the report;
- (b) The date when the subject of the report was charged with a violation of the institution's policy or other state law regarding hazing;
- (c) A general description of the violation, any investigation and findings by the institution, and any



penalties imposed on the subject of the report;

(d) The date on which the matter was resolved.

(2) Each institution shall post the initial report issued under division (D) of this section on the institution's publicly accessible web site not later than January 15, 2023. Thereafter, each institution shall update the report on the first day of January and August of each year and shall post the updated report on the institution's publicly accessible web site. However, each institution shall retain reports for five consecutive years.

(3) The initial report issued under division (D) of this section shall include information concerning hazing violations that have been reported to the institution for the five consecutive years prior to the effective date of this section to the extent that the institution has retained information concerning the violations.

(4) Each report issued under division (D) of this section shall not include the personal identifying information of an individual and shall be subject to the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

(E)(1) Each institution shall provide students with an educational program on hazing, which shall include information regarding hazing awareness, prevention, intervention, and the institution's policy developed under division (B) of this section. The educational program may be conducted in-person or online. The institution must offer at least one opportunity for students to complete the program during a new student orientation session. Each institution shall verify each student's attendance at the program. Each institution shall prohibit a student who does not attend the program from participating in an organization recognized by or operating under the sanction of the institution until the student attends the program. An organization shall not accept or initiate any person who has not attended the program.

(2) Each institution shall provide all staff and volunteers that advise or coach an organization recognized by or operating under the sanction of an institution and who have direct contact with students with mandatory training on hazing, which shall include information on hazing awareness, hazing prevention, and the institution's policy adopted under division (B) of this section.



(3) Each institution shall adopt rules requiring any organization recognized by or operating under the sanction of that institution to conduct mandatory training on hazing for any volunteer who has contact with students.

(4) Each institution shall ensure that the educational program and training prescribed under this division comply with the guidelines prescribed under division (B)(2) of section 3333.0417 of the Revised Code.

(F) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action against any individual or institution of higher education.