

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT PROHIBITION

P5300.55

Corporal punishment is defined as any act of physical force by a District employee upon a pupil for the purpose of punishing that pupil. The use of corporal punishment by District employees is prohibited.

Corporal punishment shall not mean the use of reasonable force for any of the following purposes:

1. to protect oneself from physical injury;
2. to protect another pupil or teacher or any other person from physical injury;
3. to protect the property of the school or of others; or
4. to restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of school district functions, powers or duties, if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

If it is reasonable to do so, alternatives and methods not involving the use of physical force are preferable in achieving the purposes described in 1-4 above.

Investigation of Complaints:

Every complaint about the use of corporal punishment should be submitted to the Principal of the building in which the action inspiring the complaint took place. If the complaint is against the Principal, the complainant should lodge the complaint with the Superintendent of Schools. The Principal shall investigate the complaint to determine whether an incident of corporal punishment, as defined above, actually took place. The Principal will report in writing within 10 days of receiving the complaint to the Superintendent of Schools the findings of the investigation including the identities of the student(s) and the person or persons who administered the corporal punishment, a description of the method of punishment, the reason for the punishment, the effect upon the student(s) punished, and any other relevant fact or circumstances involved.

Reports to Commissioner of Education:

Reports shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education on or before January 15th and July 15th of each year concerning complaints about the use of corporal punishment received during the reporting period. Such reports shall set forth the substance of each complaint, the results of each investigation, and the action, if any, taken by the Superintendent of Schools or Board of Education in each case.

Reviewed January 2011

Renumbered from P5340 – September 2015