

Students

Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint

I. Purpose

This policy describes limitations on the use of corporal punishment and prone restraint upon a student.

II. General Statement of Policy

No employee or agent of the school district will inflict corporal punishment or use prone restraint upon a student.

III. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

1. "Corporal punishment" means conduct involving:
 - a. hitting or spanking a person with or without an object; or
 - b. unreasonable physical force that causes bodily harm or substantial emotional harm.
2. "Employee or agent of the district" does not include a school resource officer as defined by state law
3. "Prone restraint" means placing a child in a face-down position.

IV. Prohibitions

1. An employee or agent of the school district will not inflict corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a student to reform unacceptable conduct or as a penalty for unacceptable conduct.
2. An employee or agent of the district will not use prone restraint.
~~An employee or agent of the district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with the district, will not use prone or compressive restraint; inflict any form of physical holding that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.~~
3. An employee or agent of the district will not inflict any form of physical holding

that restricts or impairs a student's ability to breathe; restricts or impairs a student's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a student's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or results in straddling a student's torso.

~~All peace officers, including those who are school resource officers or otherwise agents of the district, may use force as reasonably necessary to carry out official duties, including, but not limited to, making arrests and enforcing orders of the court. Restrictions on prone and compressive restraints do not apply in these circumstances when these officials or those assisting these officials are executing duties allowed by law.~~

4. Conduct that violates this policy is not a crime unless the conduct violates a provision of Minnesota Statutes. Nothing in this policy precludes the use of reasonable force in accordance with state law. [The use of reasonable force as set forth in Section V does not authorize conduct prohibited under state law.](#)

V. ~~Exceptions~~ Reasonable Force

Reasonable force may be used upon or toward the person of a child or student, without the child or student's consent, by a teacher, school principal, district employee, district bus driver, other agent of the district, or other member of the instructional, support, or supervisory staff of the district, when it is necessary, or the actor reasonably believes it is necessary, to use such force to restrain the child or student to prevent bodily harm or death to the child, student or another. Nothing in this policy limits any other authorization to use reasonable force provided under another policy or state law.

~~A teacher, school principal, and other school staff may use reasonable force under the conditions set forth in Policy 506 (Student Conduct and Discipline).~~

VI. Violation

Employees who violate the provisions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate. Any such disciplinary action will be made pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies. Violation of this policy may also result in civil or criminal liability for the employee.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.25 (Legal Actions Against Districts and Teachers)

[Minn. Stat. § 125A.0941 \(Definitions\)](#)

[Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 \(Standards for Restrictive Procedures\)](#)

Minn. Stat. § 609.06, ~~subd. 1~~ (Authorized Use of Force)

[Minn. Stat. § 609.379 \(Permitted Actions\)](#)

[Minn. Stat. § 626.8482 \(School Resource Officers; Duties; Training; Model Policy\)](#)

[Minn. Stat. § 645.241 \(Punishment for Prohibited Acts\)](#)

~~Op. Atty. Gen. 169f (August 22, 2023) (School Pupils: Discipline)~~
~~Op. Atty. Gen. 169f Supp. (September 20, 2023) (School Pupils: Discipline)~~

Cross Reference:

Policy 403 (Discipline of School District Employees)

Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)

Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)

Policy 506 (Student Conduct and Discipline)

[Policy 507.5 \(School Resource Officers\)](#)

Policy 532 (Use of Crisis Teams and Peace Officers to Remove Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) from School Grounds)

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