

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

While recognizing that students may require disciplinary action in various forms, the Board of Education cannot condone the use of unreasonable force and fear as an appropriate procedure in student discipline.

Professional staff should not find it necessary to resort to physical force or violence to compel obedience. If all other means fail, staff members may always resort to removal of the student from the classroom or school through suspension or expulsion procedures.

No physical punishment of any kind can be inflicted upon a student. This includes:

- A. hitting or striking a student on their physical person;
- B. requiring physical activity as a punishment (this does not apply to physical activity within the structure and context of extracurricular activities);
- C. use of noxious stimuli (e.g. pepper spray), denial of food or water or other negative physical actions to control behavior; and
- D. seclusion – a removal in which a student is left unsupervised in a dark area or in any space as an intervention or consequence to inappropriate behavior. (See Policy 5630.01 – Seclusion and Restraint for appropriate methods of seclusion.)

Professional staff as well as service personnel staff, within the scope of their employment, may use and apply reasonable force and restraint to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon or within the control of the student, in self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property. Staff shall be trained to utilize restraint methods.

Corporal punishment shall not be permitted. If any employee threatens to inflict, inflicts, or causes to be inflicted unnecessary, unreasonable, irrational, or inappropriate force upon a student, s/he may be subject to discipline by this Board and possibly charges of child abuse as well. This prohibition applies as well to volunteers and those with whom the County contracts for services.

State Board policy 4373  
WV Code 18A-5-1(e)

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