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447.1

## USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE OR RESTRAINT BY STAFF

The Board supports an educational climate that promotes learning through responsible and considerate behavior, and the safety of all persons in the schools. To ensure an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning, it is necessary to balance a student's individual rights with his/her responsibilities for good citizenship.

All students and staff have a right to work, study, and teach in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students have the responsibility to respect authority, feelings, physical well-being, and property of all staff members. Each teacher, in turn, must apply a carefully considered approach to classroom discipline that is consistent with school rules and administer it with a sense of humanity, fairness, and due process. All staff are expected to serve as models of good conduct towards students and each other.

No official, employee or agent of the Board may subject any student enrolled in the District to corporal punishment or unreasonable physical force. Corporal punishment means the intentional inflicting or causing to be inflicted physical pain for the sole purpose of punishment or as a disciplinary action. Corporal punishment includes, but is not limited to, paddling, slapping, or prolonged maintenance of physically painful positions when used as a means of discipline. Corporal punishment does not include actions consistent with an individualized education program (IEP) or reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training or therapy provided by a licensed and certified therapy professional or under the direction of such person when trained.

School district employees may use reasonable and necessary force in certain situations. Physical force or restraint may be used only when non-physical interventions have proved ineffective or the student's behavior poses an imminent threat of serious, physical harm to staff, students and/or others. Such restraint shall only be used for the amount of time needed to remove or prevent injury and as a last resort.

Physical restraint also called "manual restraint" as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) means:

Holding a student in order to restrain his/her movement; use of physical force, without the use of any device or materials, to restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body. It does not include:

1. Briefly holding a student in order to calm or comfort the student;
2. holding a student's hand or arm to escort the student safely from one area to another when the student is complying with the request to move;
3. intervening in a fight;
4. using protective or stabilizing devices, including adaptive equipment prescribed by a health care professional; using a weighted glove or wide arm cuff to hold one of the student's arms, allowing him/her to refrain from stereotypy (the constant repetition of certain meaningless gestures or movement) and work with the free arm/hand.

Staff may have physical contact with students to gently guide or reinforce student behavior. School personnel may use reasonable physical force or restraint under the following conditions:

1. To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to any person;
2. to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control;
3. for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others;
4. for the protection of property in accordance with state statutes;
5. to remove a disruptive student from school premises, a motor vehicle, or school-sponsored activities, when non physical interventions to de-escalate the situation have proved ineffective;
6. to prevent a student from inflicting harm on him/herself; and
7. to protect the safety of others.

The use of mechanical or chemical restraint is not appropriate for use in the schools without medical authorization and oversight.

All employees of the Evansville Community School District shall be apprised of this policy annually and reminded that violation will be deemed cause for disciplinary action. A "Report of Physical Force or Restraint", form 447.1-Form must be submitted to the principal as soon as practical whenever substantial physical restraint or force is used against any student and a copy of the report must be forwarded to the district administrator or designee within five school days. Actions consistent with a student's IEP may be documented as specified in the IEP rather than on form 447.1-Form.

Guidelines for the use of physical restraint shall be developed and annually reviewed by the Director of Student Services and shared with staff annually.

Legal Ref.: Sections 118.31 and 939.48 Wisconsin Statutes