

## Students

### Welfare

#### Physical Force/Corporal Punishment

Order in the schools is extremely important and necessary to the effectiveness of the school district's instructional program. Without order, the schools cannot discharge their primary function.

The use of physical force on students is generally considered inappropriate. The Board believes that changes in student behavior can be more positively influenced and more permanently affected through measures that do not include physical force.

The Board also realizes that in certain situations, the use of physical force may be necessary to maintain order and/or to protect persons from harm. Any physical force will be limited to the minimum reasonable force necessary under the circumstances. In most situations, the amount of reasonable force necessary should not extend beyond the use of one's hands to direct a student toward a desired location, to remove a student from the classroom, for the purposes of self-defense, for the protection of persons or property, to obtain a weapon or other dangerous object or substance possessed by the student, to restrain a student from injuring others, or to deter other serious acts of disruptive behavior after other measures have been unsuccessful or at the direction of a sworn law enforcement officer. In any situation where physical force is utilized, there shall be notification of parents/guardians.

In determining whether or not a person was acting within the exceptions above, deference shall be given to reasonable, good faith judgments made by an official, employee or agent of the school board.

The District prohibits the use of physical restraint and/or seclusion except when:

1. A student's behavior presents a clear, present and imminent risk, to the physical safety of the students or to others.
2. It is the least restrictive intervention feasible.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit, permit or otherwise affect any action taken by an official, employee or agent of the school board with regard to a person who is not a student enrolled in the school district.

For purposes of clarity, corporal punishment as defined below, shall not be permitted in the Watertown Unified School District under any circumstances:

"Corporal punishment is the preplanned use of physical force for punitive purposes for a violation of school rules/regulations."

**Legal Reference:**

- Wisconsin Statute – 115.787(2)(i)**
- Wisconsin Statute – 115.787(3)(b)**
- Wisconsin Statute – 118.13**
- Wisconsin Statute – 118.164**

**Wisconsin Statute – 118.305**

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