

Board File: JKA

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT/USE OF REASONABLE RESTRAINT BY EMPLOYEES

No corporal punishment shall be allowed in the District.

Reasonable Restraint

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the School District. To the extent that their actions comply with state law and Board policy governing physical restraint of students, employees shall have the full support of the Board of Education in their efforts to maintain a safe environment.

There are times when it becomes necessary for staff to use reasonable restraint to protect a student from harming himself/herself or to protect others from harm.

Reasonable restraint is defined as involuntary immobilization of the student's opportunity for movement by staff member(s) through direct contact.

Persons employed by the District may, within the scope of their employment, including involvement in extracurricular activities, use and apply such amount of force for such period of time as is reasonable and necessary to accomplish the following purposes:

1. To quell a disturbance threatening serious, probable, and imminent bodily harm to self or others;
2. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects which are within the control of a student who poses a serious, probable, and imminent threat of bodily harm to self or others; or
3. For protection against serious, probable, and imminent threat of harm to self and others, or destruction of property which could lead to harm to the student or others.

An act of physical force or restraint by a teacher or other employee against a student shall not be considered child abuse if the act was performed in good faith and in compliance with this policy. Such acts shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment.

Within a reasonable time after a teacher or other employee uses reasonable restraint with a student, the teacher or other employee shall report the incident to the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall notify the parent(s) or guardian of the incident and shall determine what additional action, if any, to take. If the restraint lasted five

minutes or longer, a written report shall be prepared within one day of the incident, shall be transmitted to the parent(s) or guardian of the affected student within 36 hours of the incident, and a copy shall be placed in the student's discipline and/or other appropriate file.

In the case of disabled students, any restraint used beyond the three specific situations listed above shall be identified on the student's Individual Education Program (IEP) as part of the student's behavior plan.

Teachers and other employees who may use restraint against a student for five minutes or more at a time shall be provided training which includes a continuum of prevention techniques; environmental management; a continuum of de-escalation techniques; nationally recognized physical management and restraint, including but not limited to techniques that allow restraint in an upright or sitting position; methods to explain the use of restraint to the student who is being restrained and to the student's family; and appropriate documentation and notification procedures.

Each use of restraint against a student for five minutes or more shall be reviewed by the director of high school, middle school, or elementary education, as appropriate, to ascertain that appropriate procedures were followed and to minimize future use of restraint. The review shall include follow-up communication with the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian; review of documentation to consider use of alternative strategies; and recommendations for adjustment of procedures.

A general review by the director of high school, middle school, or elementary education, as appropriate, shall be conducted at least annually to ascertain that procedures concerning restraint of students are appropriate. Such review shall include analysis of incident reports, documentation, and follow-up; training needs of staff; staff-to-student ratio; and environmental considerations including physical space, student seating arrangements, and noise levels.

Adopted: September 7, 1982

Revised: October 5, 1993

Revised: August 7, 2001

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 18-1-703

C.R.S. 18-6-401(1)

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1

C.R.S. 26-20-101 et seq.

CROSS REFS.:

JIC and subcodes (all relate to student conduct)

JK and subcodes (all relate to student discipline)

Douglas County School District Re. 1, Castle Rock, Colorado