

FILE: JGA

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED:	October 10, 1989	FILE SECTOR:	STUDENTS
DATE REVISED:	August 15, 2002	POLICY TITLE:	CORPORAL PUNISHMENT/USE
DATE REVISED:	June 19, 2008		OF PHYSICAL FORCE
DATE REVISED:	April 16, 2015		
DATE REVISED:	February 15, 2021		

The authority of teachers and principals is necessary to assure that students are provided with an appropriate learning environment. At times, disciplinary measures are needed to maintain this positive learning atmosphere. Disciplinary measures will take into account the dignity of each student, the seriousness of an infraction and the need for positive motivation of students.

The use of corporal punishment is prohibited.

No official, employee or agent of the Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) may subject a student to corporal punishment according to Section 118.31 of the State Statutes.

"... 'corporal punishment' means the intentional infliction of physical pain which is used as a means of discipline. '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 individual education program developed under s. 115.80 (3)(e) [for children with disabilities] or reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training."

MAPSD officials, employees or agents are not, however, prohibited from using reasonable or necessary physical force under the following conditions:

- To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to any person.
- To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control.
- For the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others.
- For the protection of property.
- To remove a disruptive student from school premises, a motor vehicle or from school-sponsored activities.
- To prevent a student from inflicting harm on themselves.
- To protect the safety of others.
- School officials, employees, or agents of the District are not prohibited from using incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact designed to maintain order and control.

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

A verbal report will be submitted to the principal as soon as possible followed by a written report submitted to the principal within three days of the incident whenever reasonable and necessary physical force is used against any student. Such a report shall detail the circumstance of the incident and the justification for using physical force including the name of the persons involved, witnesses, date, time and place. Each school will maintain on file a record of each incident of the use of physical force.

CROSS REFERENCE: JFI

LEGAL REFERENCE: 115.80(3)(e) & 118.31 Wis. Statutes