

Policy

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Harrison Township Board of Education does not condone the use of force and fear by staff members as appropriate procedures in dealing with students, even those whose recalcitrance appears to be open defiance. Each student in this school district has a right to freedom from bodily harm and freedom from offensive bodily touching even if there is no actual physical harm.

No person employed or engaged in Harrison Township School District shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student. Competent teachers and staff members should never find it necessary to resort to physical force or violence to maintain discipline or compel obedience. An employee may, within the scope of his employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1):

- A. To quell a disturbance; threatening physical injury to others;
- B. To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student;
- C. For the purpose of self-defense; or
- D. For the protect persons or property.

If all other means fail, staff members may remove the student from the classroom to the administrative office for further action or in emergency situations contact the local law enforcement authorities.

Physical contact with a student including corporal punishment shall be investigated to determine if the action was appropriate or necessary. Any staff member found to have used unnecessary force or violence with a student shall receive disciplinary consequences up to and including tenure charges and termination.

The superintendent shall initiate and investigation of any teaching staff member who:

- A. Uses force or fear to discipline;
- B. Touches a student in an offensive way, even though no physical harm is intended;
- C. Permits students to harm one another by fighting;
- D. Punishes students by means which are cruel or unusual

Adopted: December 17, 2007
NJSBA Review/Update: June 2014
Readopted: October 27, 2014

Key Words

Force, Violence, Corporal Punishment

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1 Corporal punishment
N.J.S.A. 18A:6-10 Dismissal and reduction in compensation of persons under tenure in public school system
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:27-4 Power of boards of education to make rules governing

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (continued)

employment of teacher, etc.,

Possible

- Cross References:**
- *4119.21/4219.21 Conflict of interest
 - *4119.22/4219.22 Conduct and dress
 - *4119.23/4219.23 Employee substance abuse
 - *4138/4238 Nonschool employment
 - *4138.2 Private tutoring
 - *5131.1 Harassment, intimidation and bullying
 - *6144 Controversial issues

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.