



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Board Policy Statement

4148.00/4248.00 - Reasonable Physical Force

Approved on September 14, 1998 | Revised on December 6, 2021

The reasonable exercise of authority should be the criterion for any verbal or physical contact by a Board of Education employee with any student in the Consolidated School District. Any verbal abuse or physical contact which is fostered by a loss of temper on the part of a Board of Education employee or which is given as a form of punishment is not considered reasonable exercise of authority. In all cases, employees must avoid using physical restraint when other avenues are available.

In order to provide a safe, orderly school environment and to comply with Connecticut General Statutes, physical force may be used by teachers and other Board of Education employees upon students only when and only to the extent reasonably necessary to:

- Protect oneself or others from immediate physical injury;
- Obtain the possession of dangerous instruments or controlled substances, as defined in subdivision (9) of Section 21a-240 of the Connecticut General Statutes, upon or within the control of such student;
- Protect property from physical damage; or
- Restrain the student or remove the student to another area to maintain order.

In addition, the school physician or school psychologists may use reasonable physical force to administer a recognized form of medical treatment upon a student if such professional reasonably believes the treatment will promote the health of the student. Such treatment may only be provided a) with appropriate consent from the parent or guardian of minor children or consent from the adult student and b) in an emergency when the professional reasonably believes that no one competent can be consulted and a reasonable person, if consulted, would consent to safeguard the welfare of the student.

The district shall work to provide appropriate training on the proper use of restraint to members of staff who, by their job description or duties, may be reasonably expected to need to use restraint practices frequently in the course of their regular duties. Staff not trained in restraint protocols will utilize staff members who have been trained in such practices when, in their best judgement, waiting for such assistance will not put the student or others in risk of potential harm.

Legal Citations/References

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 53a-18