

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE  
BOARD POLICY**

## **STUDENTS**

### **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

#### **STAFF USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE / RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION**

**447.1**

It is the responsibility of school district personnel to assure that students are provided with an appropriate learning environment. When a student's behavior becomes disruptive to the learning environment or endangers the health and safety of the student or others, physical intervention may be necessary. School personnel shall use the least restrictive intervention appropriate to the situation. Positive behavioral interventions and supports shall be considered and utilized to the extent possible.

Students shall not be subjected to the use of corporal punishment at any time. Corporal punishment means intentionally inflicting or causing to be inflicted physical pain for the purpose of punishment or as a disciplinary action. It includes, for example, paddling, slapping or prolonged maintenance of physically painful positions.

A school official, employee or agent may use reasonable and necessary force under the following circumstances:

- 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 a school premises or motor vehicle or from school-sponsored activities;
- to prevent a student from inflicting harm on himself/herself, and;
- to protect the safety of others.

A school official, employee or agent may also use incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact designed to maintain order and control.

Seclusion and physical restraint, as defined by state law, shall only be used by designated school personnel when the student's behavior presents a clear, present and imminent risk to the physical safety of the student or others and it is the least restrictive intervention feasible. Use of such behavior interventions shall be for the shortest time possible and shall be done in accordance with applicable legal requirements. Verbal outbursts and threats do not constitute a threat to physical safety unless the student also demonstrates a means to carry out the threat. The purpose for using seclusion or physical restraint is to defuse a physically dangerous situation, protect the students and others from injury, and regain a safe and productive learning environment. Neither physical restraint nor seclusion should be used as a punishment or as a substitute for appropriate educational/behavioral intervention and support. Only designated staff who have received required training may use physical restraint on students at school. Exceptions may be

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allowed in an emergency but only if a designated staff member who has received training on the use of physical restraint is not immediately available due to the unforeseen nature of the emergency.

All incidents involving a physical encounter with a student or seclusion shall be reported to the building principal, and to the parents or guardians of the student involved.

School staff shall be informed of this policy annually.

**Legal References:**

**Wisconsin Statutes** Section 115.787(2)(i)  
Section 115.787(3)(b)1  
Section 118.13  
Section 118.164  
Section 118.305  
Section 118.31

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