

## Students

### Discipline/Punishment

#### Discipline

A democratic way of life calls for a great deal of self-direction and self-discipline. Therefore, it is a first responsibility of teachers to help children to understand the rules of behavior in social living and aid them to understand their own and other's behavior so they may learn better ways of reacting to conflict situations. At the same time, our society calls for respect for law and order and obedience to duly constituted authority.

A teacher or other person entrusted with the care and supervision of a student for school purposes may use reasonable physical force upon such student when and to the extent he/she reasonably believes it is necessary to:

1. Protect himself/herself or others from immediate physical injury;
2. To obtain possession of a dangerous instrument or controlled substance, as defined in Connecticut General Statute 21a-240(9) upon or within the control of such student;
3. To protect property from physical damage;
4. To restrain or remove the student to another area to maintain order.

Teachers and principals may use all reasonable means to establish, maintain, or restore order. The courts have recognized that a teacher stands in place of the parent while under the school's jurisdiction and, accordingly, a student owes to a teacher the same obedience he or she owes to his or her parents.

Students who are chronic offenders of school policy, i.e., class cutting, lateness to school, smoking on school premises, will receive disciplinary action including school service and loss of privilege to participate in school activities, participation in a program or event, either alone or with their parents. (Also see Suspension/Expulsion; Due Process, Policy 5114)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

53a-18 Use of reasonable physical force or deadly physical force generally; defense by teachers and certain other persons.

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