

USE OF REASONABLE FORCE

It is the policy of the Woodland Board of Directors that the District maintains a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the District shall remain free from the unreasonable use of force.

There may be rare occasions when, in order to maintain order, and/or in order to prevent a student from harming himself/herself and/or other people and/or school property, District staff may use reasonable force.

~~District staff may use reasonable force to maintain order or to prevent a student from harming him/herself other students and school staff or property.~~

~~Physical force is reasonable when~~Reasonable physical force is defined as the force needed to prevent or minimize imminent bodily injury or substantial or great bodily harm to self or others. If de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate, reasonable physical force may be used to protect district property.

Mechanical restraint or chemical spray is reasonable only when used by authorized and trained district staff after de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate: a) if the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent bodily injury or substantial or great harm to self or others; or b) to prevent significant property damage.

Physical force, mechanical restraints, chemical spray or less than lethal devices will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is intended to address students enrolled in the District and not intended to prevent or limit the use of reasonable force or restraint as necessary with other adults or youth from outside the school as allowed by law.

The Superintendent will ~~annually~~ report to the Board ~~on~~following the use of force. The Superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Legal References: RCW 28A.150.300
9A.16.020
9A.16.100

WAC 392-400-235
392-172A

Corporal Punishment Prohibited
Use of Force — When lawful
Use of Force on Children — Policy —
Actions presumed unreasonable

Discipline — Conditions and limitations
Rules for the Provision of Special Education

Management Resources:

Policy News, December 2008 Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Adoption Date: February 23, 2009
Woodland School District #404
Classification: Priority