I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe limitations on use of corporal punishment and prone restraint upon a student.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No employee or agent of the school district shall inflict corporal punishment or use prone restraint upon a student.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. “Corporal punishment” means conduct involving:
   a. hitting or spanking a person with or without an object; or
   b. unreasonable physical force that causes bodily harm or substantial emotional harm.

2. “Prone restraint” means placing a child in a face-down position.

IV. PROHIBITIONS

1. An employee or agent of a district shall not inflict corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a pupil to reform unacceptable conduct or as a penalty for unacceptable conduct.

2. An employee or agent of a district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district, shall not use prone or compressive restraint except that the restrictions on prone and compressive restraints do not apply under the circumstances enumerated in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.06, subdivision 1(1). All peace officers, including those who are school resource officers or otherwise agents of a school district, may use force as reasonably necessary to carry out official duties, including, but not limited to, making arrests and enforcing orders of the court.

3. An employee or agent of a district, including a school resource officer, security personnel, or police officer contracted with a district, shall not inflict any form of
physical holding that restricts or impairs a pupil's ability to breathe; restricts or
impairs a pupil's ability to communicate distress; places pressure or weight on a
pupil's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen; or
results in straddling a pupil's torso.

4. Conduct that violates this Article is not a crime under Minnesota Statutes,
section 645.241, but may be a crime under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 609 if the
conduct violates a provision of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 609. Conduct that
violates IV.1 above is not per se corporal punishment under the statute. Nothing in
this Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.58 or 125A.0941 precludes the use of
reasonable force under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582.

V. EXCEPTIONS

A teacher, school principal and other school staff may use reasonable force under the
conditions set forth in Policy 506 (Student Discipline).

IV. VIOLATION

Employees who violate the provisions of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action
as appropriate. Any such disciplinary action shall be made pursuant to and in accordance
with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements and school district
policies. Violation of this policy may also result in civil or criminal liability for the
employee.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.25 (Actions Against Districts and Teachers)
Minn. Stat. § 609.06 Subd. 1 (6)(7) (Authorized Use of Force)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of
School District Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or
Physical or Sexual Abuse)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of
Vulnerable Adults)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

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