

**DISCIPLINE AND PUNISHMENT**

**Discipline**

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes that there are situations where the disciplining of students is necessary. Discipline is an effort to correct inappropriate behavior and is intended to foster student growth while assuring each student of a safe environment free from disruption in which to learn.

A major responsibility of each teacher is the creation of a school atmosphere which encourages acceptable social behavior by pupils within a framework of self-control and brotherhood. Acceptable social behavior must recognize the rights and basic worth of all individuals without distinctions of any kind such as race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, creed, or mental or physical disability or any other legally recognized classification.

Teachers who observe abusive or offensive behavior are expected to take timely corrective action to establish positive social values and attitudes.

Students who continue abusive behavior as well as those who present serious disciplinary problems in the teacher's judgment, and who have not responded positively to teacher attempts to modify such behavior, should be referred to the building Principal or his/her designee.

The building Principal or his/her designee should take such action as he/she deems necessary in accordance with Board policy to correct the inappropriate behavior for which a student has been referred.

Parents should be involved in seeking solutions to abusive behavior or other serious disciplinary problems of students as soon as this appears appropriate to the teacher and/or the building Principal or his/her designee.

Students shall periodically be made aware of appropriate behaviors and discipline consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Disciplining of students should be conducted in a manner that includes individual discussion and counseling, involvement of students in defining acceptable behavioral standards, and involvement of the student's parents/guardian in cases where a student has repeatedly exhibited lack of responsibility or of self-discipline.

The student has the right to be informed of the reasons for corrective measures taken. Under the direction of the Superintendent, school personnel will establish, periodically review and revise, if necessary, procedures for disciplining students.

**Corporal Punishment**

No District employee or volunteer shall inflict corporal punishment or cause corporal punishment to be inflicted upon a student.

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Any District employee may, however, within the scope of his/her employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary for the following purposes:

1. To quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others;
2. To obtain possession of dangerous instruments or controlled substances;
3. For the purpose of self-defense; and
4. For the protection of persons or property.

The above exceptions are not intended to cover normal disciplinary situations, but only to prevent imminent danger of personal injury or property damage.

**Physical Activity/Exercise and Discipline**

No District employee or volunteer shall interfere with or prevent an elementary student from participating in the entire period devoted to daily physical exercise as a form of punishment or discipline, nor shall they cancel it for instructional makeup time. Furthermore, no student in Ledyard Public Schools shall be required to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during the regular school day.

**Legal References:**

Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-221. Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.
- 10-221o. Lunch periods. Recess.
- 10-233a. Definitions.
- 10-233b. Removal of pupils from class.
- 10-233c. Suspension of pupils.
- 10-233d. Expulsion of pupils.
- 10-233e. Notice as to disciplinary policies and action.
- 10-233f. In-school suspension of pupils. Reassignment.
- 10-235. Indemnification of teachers, board members, employees and certain volunteers and students in damage suits; expenses of litigation.
- 10-236a. Indemnification of educational personnel assaulted in the line of duty.
- 53a-18. Use of reasonable physical force or deadly physical force generally.

Public Act 13-173 – “An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity and Physical Exercise in Schools.”

Policy completely revised: July 17, 2002

Revision: October 2, 2013