

Sparta Area School District

Article 508 - General Statement on Student Conduct

One of the primary reasons for establishing controls in public schools is to create learning situations in which the students and teachers can function at the most effective level. Effective learning cannot take place in a classroom where there is disorder or distraction. Every student and teacher must share in the responsibility for observing and maintaining the rules and regulations of the school.

Parents of all students in the Sparta Area School District are requested to support a wholesome respect for fellow students, teachers and school authorities. The staff will also be expected to treat students and parents with due respect.

The Sparta Board of Education recognizes that an effective learning environment is vital to good education and that in order to provide this environment, good discipline in our schools is crucial.

The classroom teacher should not allow an unruly student to disrupt a learning situation or environment. Unacceptable actions by word or deed by any student in or out of school while under the supervision of school staff will not be tolerated. Faculty should demand compliance with rules and regulations.

Corporal punishment shall not be used in the Sparta Area School District. For purposes of Board policy, "corporal punishment" is defined as the intentional infliction of physical pain used as a means of discipline. It includes, but is not limited to paddling, slapping or prolonged maintenance of physically painful positions, when used as a means of discipline.

School officials, employees or agents are not prohibited, however, from using:

1. Reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to any person;
2. Reasonable and necessary force to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control;
3. Reasonable and necessary force for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others, or for the protection of property in accordance with state statutes;
4. Reasonable and necessary force to remove a disruptive student from the school premises, a motor vehicle, or a school-sponsored activity;
5. Reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting harm on him/herself;
6. Reasonable and necessary force to protect the safety of others, or;
7. Incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact designed to maintain order and control.

In determining whether or not a person was acting within the exceptions above, deference shall be given to reasonable, good faith judgments made by a school official, employee or agent.

The Board of Education further recognizes that the teacher is the cornerstone to good discipline and establishes policy spelling out this philosophy and affirms support for the efforts of the staff to enforce discipline standards.

In the attempt to achieve the objectives outlined above, the Board of Education resolves to support the administration, the faculty, and all of its employees, in the strongest manner possible to enforce the highest standards of behavior and achievement for all Sparta area youth.

Cross Reference: Article 509 – Student Code of Conduct
 Article 510 – Dress Code Policy
 Article 511 – Rules and Regulations
 Article 512 – Off-Campus Activities

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 120.13 and 120.44(2) (Board Authority)
 Wisconsin Statute 118.31 (Corporal Punishment)

Approved:

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