

REASONABLE AND NECESSARY PHYSICAL FORCE AUTHORIZED

State law provides: “Superintendents, principals, supervisors, and teachers and their aids and assistants, have the authority, to use the physical force that is reasonable and necessary for supervisory control over students. Like authority over students is given any person delegated to supervise children who have been authorized to attend a school function away from their school premises and to school bus drivers while students are riding, boarding, or leaving the buses.” (SDCL 13-32-2).

Reasonable and necessary physical force is authorized in the following situations:

1. To remove a student who has refused to comply with requests to refrain from disruptive behavior;
2. To restrain or control a student that is out of control.
3. To protect other persons from physical injury;
4. To protect property of the school or others;
5. For self-defense.

Physical force is NOT AUTHORIZED for disciplinary or punishment purposes.

Any employee using physical force to control a student will document the incident in writing, with copies given to the principal and superintendent by the close of the following school day. The superintendent will keep the Board apprised of the unusual or extreme incidents of the use of physical force.

The use of corporal punishment, defined as any act of physical force on a pupil for the purpose of punishing that child is prohibited.

Adopted: August 12, 1996

Reviewed _____

Amended: 2007, 2014