

POLICY	<p>5475</p> <p>Adopted: August 1, 2023</p> <p>Student Policies</p>
---------------	--

SUBJECT: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND AVERSIVE INTERVENTIONS

The Board of Education seeks to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students. To that end, the Board prohibits BOCES teachers, administrators, officers, employees, agents, contractors or volunteers from using corporal punishment or aversive interventions against a student, as detailed below, in accordance with New York State law.

Definitions

Aversive intervention means an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort for the purpose of eliminating or reducing student behavior, including such interventions as:

- (1) contingent application of noxious, painful, intrusive stimuli or activities, strangling, shoving, deep muscle squeezes or other similar stimuli;
- (2) any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray, inhalant or tastes;
- (3) contingent food programs that include the denial or delay of the provision of meals or intentionally altering staple food or drink in order to make it distasteful;
- (4) movement limitation used as a punishment, including but not limited to helmets and mechanical restraints; or
- (5) other stimuli or actions similar to the interventions described above.

The term shall not include such interventions as voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of a specific behavior; token fines as part of a token economy system; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; interventions medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the student; or other similar interventions.

Corporal punishment means any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. The term does not include the use of physical restraints, as outlined in Board policy 5490, to protect the student, another student, teacher or any other person from physical injury when alternative procedures and methods not involving the use of physical restraint cannot reasonably be employed to achieve these purposes.

Mechanical restraint means the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student’s freedom of movement. Mechanical restraint does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student, that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

POLICY	5475
	Adopted: August 1, 2023
Student Policies	

- (1) adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- (2) vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- (3) restraints for medical immobilization; or
- (4) orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

Ref: 8 NYCRR section 19.5

Cross-ref: 5480, Use of Time Out Rooms
5490, Use of Physical Restraints