



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY BULLETIN

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**TITLE:** Abolition of Corporal Punishment

**NUMBER:** BUL-5747.1

**ISSUER:** Earl R. Perkins, Assistant Superintendent  
School Operations

Michelle King, Senior Deputy Superintendent  
School Operations

**DATE:** December 20, 2013

## ROUTING

Instructional  
Superintendents  
Administrators of  
Operations  
Operations Coordinators  
Principals  
All Schools and Offices

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Bulletin is to restate and reaffirm the importance of the District's policy against the use of corporal punishment. By action taken on October 15, 1984, the Board of Education determined that the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary option at any grade level and with any student was abolished. Corporal discipline, in any form, is not to be used within this District.

**MAJOR CHANGES:** This Bulletin replaces BUL-5747.0, of the same subject, dated July 5, 2012. The content has been updated to include clarification on corporal punishment and reflects changes in the issuing office.

**GUIDELINES:** The following guidelines apply.

Under the law, "corporal punishment" is defined as willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a pupil.

Corporal punishment does not include the amount of force that is reasonable and necessary for a person employed by or engaged in a public school to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to persons or damage to property, for purposes of self-defense, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the pupil. In addition, physical pain or discomfort caused by athletic competition or other such recreational activity, voluntarily engaged in by the pupil, is not corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment refers to the intentional application of physical pain as a method of changing behavior. District employees are directed to not engage in the use of corporal punishment, which includes but is not limited to engaging in a mutual physical altercation, food deprivation, hitting, painful body postures, pinching, pushing, shaking, slapping, tripping, use of excessive exercise drills, or prevention of use of restrooms.



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District employees are reminded that corporal punishment may also result in child abuse and, as such, must be reported in accordance with mandatory child abuse reporting laws.

In considering responses to behavior issues, schools, employees, contractors, and volunteers should refrain from physical consequences, which may be construed as corporal punishment. The Superintendent encourages the use of positive approaches to student discipline and classroom management to ensure that students conform to expected behavior norms permitting them to derive greater benefits from the educational program.

**AUTHORITY:** California Education Code Sections 44807, 49000, 49001  
California Penal Code Sections 273d, 11165.4

**RELATED RESOURCES:** Bul-1347.2, *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements*, Office of General Counsel, dated July 1, 2011.

Bul-3638.0, *Discipline Foundation Policy: School-wide Positive Behavior Support*, Student Health and Human Services, dated April 4, 2007.

Bul-5167.0, *Code of Conduct with Students-Distribution and Dissemination Requirement Policy*, Office of the Superintendent, dated July 1, 2010.

**ASSISTANCE:** For assistance or further information, please contact your Educational Service Center Operations Coordinator. For further assistance, please call the Office of School Operations at (213) 241-5337.