

TIPS FOR STAFF IN DEALING WITH A PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION

Education Code: 44807

Every teacher in the public schools shall hold pupils to a strict account for their conduct on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, or during recess. A teacher, vice principal, principal, or any other certificated employee of a school district, shall not be subject to criminal prosecution or criminal penalties for the exercise, during the performance of his duties, of the same degree of physical control over a pupil that a parent would be legally privileged to exercise but which in no event shall exceed the amount of physical control reasonably necessary to maintain order, protect property, or protect the health and safety of pupils, or to maintain proper and appropriate conditions conducive to learning. The provisions of this section are in addition to and do not supersede the provision of Section 49000.

Physical restraint should be used only as a last resort, when all other means have been exhausted in attempting to control an individual who presents an immediate danger to his/herself or others. Use caution and good judgment to only physically intervene when it is safe to do so. If at all possible, two or more employees should work together to restrain an individual physically.

- Insults and verbal abuse alone do not constitute a basis for the use of force.
- Intimidating behavior and refusal to cease may require team control restraints.
- Be sensitive to ethnic and cultural difference.
- Be cognizant of the signs and symptoms of mental illness.
- Treat students with dignity and respect at all times.
- Once the immediate threat is over, physical restraint ends.
- If an individual attempts to flee, attempt to identify but do not pursue and capture.

Other Considerations

- Assess the surrounding environment.
- Send someone for Assistance.
- Give verbal commands to **STOP – Repeatedly**.
- Do not attempt to step in unless it is safe for you.
- Use a method of distraction (whistle).
- Take a mental picture/account of the confrontation (who is the aggressor, other students jumping in, etc. you will need to give the VP a report).
- Attempt to keep the area clear of other student to your best ability.