PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, UNDIRECTED PLAY AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is the policy of the Board to promote the health and well-being of district students by encouraging healthy lifestyles including promoting physical exercise and activity as part of the school day.

[NOTE: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221o, as amended by Public Act 19-173, requires boards of education to adopt a policy, as the board deems appropriate, concerning the issue regarding any school employee being involved in preventing elementary students from participating in the entire time devoted to physical exercise or undirected play in the regular school day as a form of discipline. Below is suggested language that prohibits a school employee from depriving elementary students from participating in the full 20 minutes per day of physical exercise required under current law or additional time devoted to undirected play provided under current law. Boards have discretion in adopting rules to regulate the restriction, as a form of discipline, of time devoted to physical exercise or undirected play. Therefore, this policy is offered as a sample for consideration and boards of education may consider other reasonable rules regarding the deprivation of physical exercise or undirected play as a form of discipline consistent with board philosophy and the needs of individual districts].

Prohibition on Deprivation of Physical Exercise Period or Undirected Play Period as a Form of Discipline:

For elementary school students, the Board includes a time of not less than twenty (20) minutes in total, during the regular school day, to be devoted to physical exercise, except that a planning and placement team (“PPT”) may develop a different schedule for students requiring special education and related services.

The administration may include additional time, beyond the twenty minutes required for physical exercise, devoted to undirected play during the regular school day for elementary school students.

In an effort to promote physical exercise and undirected play, the Board prohibits school employees from disciplining elementary school students by preventing them from participating in the full 20 minutes of time devoted to physical exercise or additional time devoted to undirected play during the regular school day, except in instances where the student’s behavior poses a health and/or safety concern or as determined by a student’s Section 504 or planning and placement team.

Prohibition on Compulsion of Physical Activity as a Form of Discipline:

For all students, the Board prohibits school employees from disciplining students by requiring students to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during the regular school day.
Definition:

For the purposes of this policy, a “school employee” is defined as (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in the district schools, or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the district schools pursuant to a contract with the Board.

Disciplinary Action for Failure to Follow Policy:

Any employee who fails to comply with the requirements of this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment. Any contracted individual who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in the district and who fails to comply with the requirements of this policy may be subject to having his/her contract for services suspended by the district.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes:


§ 10-221o Lunch periods. Recess. Boards to adopt policies addressing the limitations of physical exercise

§ 10-221u Boards to adopt policies addressing the use of physical activity as discipline

REVISED:__________

8/25/19

ADOPTED: By the BOE: 12.9.2019

Watertown Public Schools
Watertown, CT