



## School Discipline Policies

### Is corporal punishment permitted?

May 2021

Corporal punishment is permitted in at least 18 states, is prohibited in at least 27 states and the District of Columbia, and at least five states did not specify their policy in statute or regulation. Of the minimum 18 states where it is permitted, at least 11 states give local jurisdictions responsibility for either permitting or prohibiting corporal punishment. This information on the legal status of corporal punishment does not necessarily correspond to the practice and implementation of corporal punishment in any given location.

This data point highlights state policy permitting or prohibiting the use of corporal punishment. To view other data points in this resource, click [here](#). The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

STATE	Is corporal punishment permitted?	Source
Alabama	Yes. Local decision.	Ala. Code § 16-28A-1
Alaska	No.	Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 07.010
Arizona	Yes. Local decision.	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-843
Arkansas	Yes. Local decision.	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-112
California	No.	Cal. Educ. Code § 49000 Cal. Educ. Code § 49001

STATE	Is corporal punishment permitted?	Source
Colorado	Yes.	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109.1
Connecticut	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Delaware	No.	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 702
District of Columbia	No.	D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 5-E, § 2401
Florida	Yes. Local decision.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.20
Georgia	Yes. Local decision.	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-730
Hawaii	No.	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1141
Idaho	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Illinois	No.	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/24-24
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Iowa	No.	Iowa Code Ann. § 280.21
Kansas	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Kentucky	Yes. Local decision.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.444 Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 503.110
Louisiana	Yes. Local decision.	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416.1
Maine	Not specified in statute or regulation.	

STATE	Is corporal punishment permitted?	Source
Maryland	No.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-306
Massachusetts	No	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. 71 § 37G
Michigan	No.	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 380.1312
Minnesota	No	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.58
Mississippi	Yes	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-57
Missouri	Yes. Local decision.	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.261
Montana	No.	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-4-302
Nebraska	No.	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-295
Nevada	No.	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.4633
New Hampshire	Yes.	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 627:6
New Jersey	No.	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:6-1
New Mexico	No.	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-5-4.3
New York	No.	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 19.5
North Carolina	Yes. Local decision.	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-390.4
North Dakota	No.	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-19-02
Ohio	No.	Ohio Admin. Code 3301-35-15

STATE	Is corporal punishment permitted?	Source
Oklahoma	Yes.	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 13-116
Oregon	No.	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.250
Pennsylvania	No.	22 Pa. Code § 12.5
Rhode Island	No.	200 R.I. Code R. 20-30-2.2
South Carolina	Yes. Local decision - district governing bodies may provide corporal punishment at their discretion.	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-260
South Dakota	Yes.	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-32-2
Tennessee	Yes.	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-4103
Texas	Yes. Local decision. Students are exempt if parent/guardian provides a statement prohibiting its use for their student.	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0011
Utah	No.	Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-302
Vermont	No.	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16, § 1161a
Virginia	No.	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-279.1
Washington	No.	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.150.300
West Virginia	No	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18A-5-1
Wisconsin	No	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.31
Wyoming	Yes	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-308