

SENATE BILL No. 531

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-24-5.5-1; IC 20-33-8.

Synopsis: Ban on corporal punishment in schools. Prohibits the use of corporal punishment on certain students. Allows the use of reasonable and necessary force in certain situations.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Ford J.D.

January 16, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 531

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-24-5.5-1, AS ADDED BY P.L.179-2016,
2 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 1. (a) A charter school shall:
4 (1) establish written discipline rules, which must include a
5 graduated system of discipline and may include:
6 (A) appropriate dress codes; and
7 (B) if applicable, an agreement for court assisted resolution of
8 school suspension and expulsion cases;
9 for the charter school; and
10 (2) publicize the discipline rules within the charter school where
11 the discipline rules apply, which may include:
12 (A) making a copy of the discipline rules available to students
13 or parents, guardians, or custodians of students; or
14 (B) delivering a copy of the discipline rules to students or
15 parents, guardians, or custodians of students.
16 The publicity requirement is satisfied if the charter school makes a
17 good faith effort to disseminate the text or substance of the discipline



1 rules to students or parents, guardians, or custodians of students
2 generally.

3 **(b) Discipline rules established under this section shall not**
4 **permit a student to be subject to corporal punishment by charter**
5 **school personnel.**

6 **(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), charter school personnel**
7 **may use reasonable and necessary force:**

8 **(1) to stop or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to**
9 **any person;**

10 **(2) to obtain possession of a weapon or dangerous object that**
11 **is in a student's control; or**

12 **(3) in self-defense.**

13 SECTION 2. IC 20-33-8-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.188-2023,
14 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 8. (a) Student supervision and the desirable
16 behavior of students in carrying out school purposes is the
17 responsibility of:

18 (1) a school corporation; and

19 (2) the students of a school corporation.

20 **(b) Except as provided in subsection (e), in all matters relating to**
21 **the discipline and conduct of students, school corporation personnel:**

22 (1) stand in the relation of parents to the students of the school
23 corporation;

24 (2) have the right to take any disciplinary action necessary to
25 promote student conduct that conforms with an orderly and
26 effective educational system, subject to this chapter; and

27 (3) have qualified immunity with respect to a disciplinary action
28 taken to promote student conduct under subdivision (2) if the
29 action is taken in good faith and is reasonable.

30 (c) Students must:

31 (1) follow responsible directions of school personnel in all
32 educational settings; and

33 (2) refrain from disruptive behavior that interferes with the
34 educational environment.

35 (d) In accordance with subsection (b), a school corporation may
36 adopt a policy concerning student dress code or distractive behavior.

37 **(e) School corporation personnel shall not subject a student to**
38 **corporal punishment.**

39 **(f) Notwithstanding subsection (e), school personnel may use**
40 **reasonable and necessary force:**

41 **(1) to stop or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to**
42 **any person;**



- 1 **(2) to obtain possession of a weapon or dangerous object that**
2 **is in a student's control; or**
3 **(3) in self-defense.**
4 SECTION 3. IC 20-33-8-8.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
5 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
6 1, 2025]: **Sec. 8.5. (a) This section applies to a state accredited**
7 **nonpublic school.**
8 **(b) A state accredited nonpublic school shall not subject a**
9 **student to corporal punishment.**
10 **(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), state accredited nonpublic**
11 **school personnel may use reasonable and necessary force:**
12 **(1) to stop or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to**
13 **any person;**
14 **(2) to obtain possession of a weapon or dangerous object that**
15 **is in a student's control; or**
16 **(3) in self-defense.**
17 **(d) The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**
18 **implement this section.**

