

# PROTECTING OUR STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS ACT 2021

Keep Students Safe | End Corporal Punishment  
Support Best Practices

Across the country, educators, school staff, and administrators paddle, spank, slap, and hit children in their schools. Despite overwhelming evidence showing how corporal punishment harms students, many states still allow this outdated and abusive practice in schools, even as they prohibit it in other settings like foster care placements and juvenile detention centers.

In 2017-18, more than 70,000 children were struck in their schools at least once.

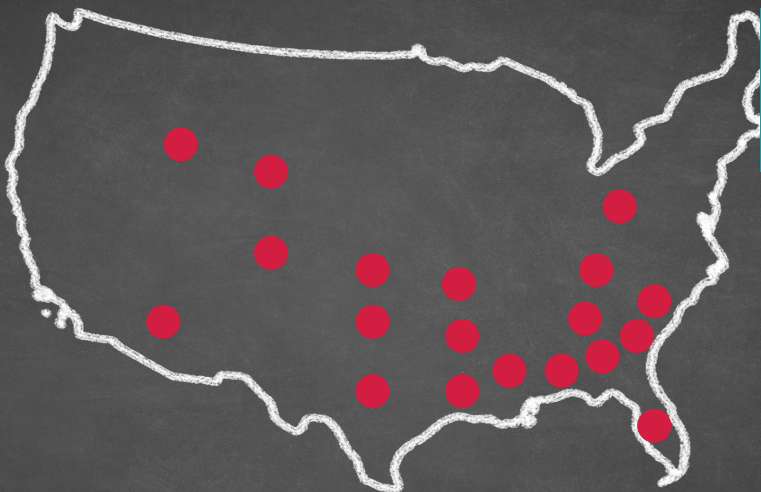
It is time for a federal response.

**The Protecting our Students in Schools Act** ends corporal punishment in schools that receive federal funding, ensures state data collection and federal enforcement, creates a private right of action for families, & establishes a grant program for schools to adopt research-based practices to support all students.

Black students are 2-3 times more likely to be hit in school than their white peers, making the elimination of corporal punishment an urgent racial justice issue.

Students with disabilities are hit at higher rates than their peers without disabilities in more than half of schools that practice corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment can cause physical and psychological trauma, impact academic achievement and attendance, and create unsafe school climates for all students.



**19 States Still Have Laws Allowing Corporal Punishment in Schools**

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming

Washington DC, Nevada, Washington, and New York also reported using corporal punishment in 2012-18.

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## Reports and Data Analyses

[Striking Outlier: The Persistent, Painful, and Problematic Practice of Corporal Punishment in Schools](#) (The Southern Poverty Law Center and The Center for Civil Rights Remedies, 2019)

Action Research: [Nollie Jenkins Family Center](#) & [The Mississippi Coalition to End Corporal Punishment](#)

[Fact Sheet: Corporal Punishment Does Not Belong in Public Schools](#) (American Psychological Association)

[Corporal Punishment Data Dashboard](#) (IDRA, 2021)

[Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools: Prevalence, Disparities in Use, and Status in State and Federal Policy](#) (Gershoff & Font, 2016)

Resource site: [Spare the Kids](#) (Patton)

Bill Text:

[S.2029 | H.R. 3836](#)

Video: [Congressional Briefing June 2021](#)

For more information and ways to support the Protecting Our Students in Schools Act, please contact the FedSDC Corporal Punishment Working Group at [hello@fedcdc.org](mailto:hello@fedcdc.org).

**Endorsed by:** National Disability Rights Network; National Education Association; American Federation of Teachers; American Psychological Association; SPLC Action Fund; The Education Trust; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; National PTA; National Women's Law Center; National Down Syndrome Congress; Brain Injury Association of America; Lives in the Balance; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Association of School Psychologists; Intercultural Development Research Association; Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Legal Aid Justice Center; National Federation of Families; Girls Inc.; American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; The Up Institute; Texas Appleseed; The Dignity in Schools Campaign; National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; Council for Exceptional Children; National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment; U.S. Alliance to End the Hitting of Children; Crimes against Children Research Center; Prevent Child Abuse America; New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; Center for Learner Equity; National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives; Futures Without Violence; Center for Health and Health Care in Schools; Committee for Children; Center for Disability Rights; American Psychological Association Division 31; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (Division 37 of the American Psychological Association); Attachment Parenting International; Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.; Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, Division 53, American Psychological Association; Empowering Pacific Islander Communities; Minnesota Psychological Association; Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; National Network to End Domestic Violence; Society of Pediatric Psychology, Division 54 of the American Psychological Association; GLSEN; Children's Defense Fund; Southern Echo Inc.; Southern Education Foundation; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund; National Parents Union; Florida Psychological Association; Kentucky Psychological Association; Georgia Psychological Association; Michigan Psychological Association; Maine Psychological Association; First Focus on Children; The Daniel Initiative; NAACP LDF; Missouri Psychological Association; Connecticut Psychological Association; Pennsylvania Psychological Association; Texans Care for Children; Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Texas; Autism Society of Texas; Girls Empowerment Network; Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; MEASURE; Texas Parent to Parent; Easterseals Central Texas; Minaret Foundation; The Education Trust in Texas; National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter; International Center for Assault Prevention, Inc.; Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice