

## • Corporal Punishment

- A. **Definition:** The moderate use of physical force or physical contact by a Principal or Assistant Principal, may be necessary to maintain discipline or to enforce rules. We believe that corporal punishment is a viable alternative in maintaining discipline in a school setting. **If a parent or guardian objects to the use of corporal punishment for their child, then it is the responsibility of that parent or guardian to notify the school in writing each school year of that objection. A parent must request in each instance for corporal punishment to be administered. However, the school administrator reserves the right not to use corporal punishment as a disciplinary intervention.** For a student with a disability, the teacher or administrator should refer to the Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan and/or the Positive Behavior Intervention Plan (PBIP) for contra indicators regarding the use of Corporal Punishment. The development of individualized positive behavior interventions/supports should be included in the above noted plans. Special consideration should also be given to students with active involvement with the Department of Children and Families or mental health issues.
- B. **Conditions:**
1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in principle by the Principal or designee before it is used in accordance with Florida law.
  2. The Principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses, the conditions under which the punishment shall be administered, and the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to administer the punishment. Principals will submit their guidelines to Directors of Elementary, Middle School and High School Education for review, not for approval.
  3. Corporal punishment for students shall be limited to the following:
    - a. Grades K-3 - two strokes or less
    - b. Grades 4-6 - three strokes or less
    - c. Grades 7-12 - four strokes or less
    - d. One instance of corporal punishment during the school day.
  4. Paddles must be made of wood (not plywood), no more than nineteen (19) inches long, not more than 3/8 inch thick, nor more than four (4) inches wide. It must be smooth with no sharp edges. A handle must be provided just large enough for a normal one-hand grip.
- C. **Procedures:**
1. An Assistant Principal or Principal may administer corporal punishment only in the presence of another adult who is a teacher, Assistant Principal or Principal and who is informed beforehand and in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment.
  2. Corporal punishment shall not be unduly severe or degrading in its nature and shall not be administered in the presence of other students or adults not involved in the handling of the incident.
  3. Under no circumstances shall a student be struck indiscriminately on the body. The punishment shall be administered to the posterior, making every effort to avoid striking the body above or below the buttocks.
  4. Parents will be notified in writing when corporal punishment has been administered to their child. An Assistant Principal or Principal who has administered punishment shall, upon request, provide the pupil's parents or guardian with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the adult witness/witnesses present.