

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Jackson Parish School Board recognizes that good order and discipline within the schools are essential if teaching and learning are to be effective. The State of Louisiana, through La. Rev. Stat. Ann. 17:416, has charged every teacher in the public school system to hold each pupil to a strict accountability for any disorderly conduct in school or on the playgrounds of the school, on the street or road while going to or returning from school, or during intermission or recess. The aforementioned statute authorizes school principals to suspend from school any pupil who is guilty of disorderly conduct. In addition, teachers and principals are authorized to use reasonable corporal punishment against any pupil for good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within the schools.

Therefore, the Jackson Parish School Board hereby authorizes its teachers and principals to employ, when necessary, corporal punishment in a reasonable manner to maintain discipline and order in the schools or at all school-sponsored activities, subject to the following regulations:

1. Corporal punishment shall be administered in a reasonable, fair, and impartial manner. Abuse or misuse of corporal punishment by any teacher or principal, especially the act of being malicious, with willful and deliberate intent to cause bodily harm, shall not be tolerated.
2. Corporal punishment shall be administered to the posterior anatomy (buttocks) in the area below the waist and above the thighs for a maximum of five (5) times.
3. Corporal punishment shall be used only after other means of solving discipline problems have been explored and failed.
4. Corporal punishment shall not be used unless the student was forewarned that a specific behavior could cause its use.
5. Prior to the administering of corporal punishment, the student shall be given an opportunity to explain his or her version of the facts.
6. Corporal punishment can only be administered in the company of a professional staff member who has been informed beforehand and in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment.
7. The procedures specified in regulations 3, 4, 5, and 6 above do not apply in those cases where the student's behavior is so blatant, disruptive, antisocial, or flagrant in nature as to shock the conscience.
8. Teachers and principals shall keep written records of misconduct wherein corporal punishment is administered. This record shall be placed on file in the principal's office the day such punishment occurs.
9. If the parents so request, the principal of the school where the punishment was administered must furnish a copy of the written report of corporal punishment.
10. The principal of each school shall have the authority and the responsibility of holding every member of his staff accountable for understanding and administering corporal punishment as set forth by these regulations.

For purposes of clarity, corporal punishment, as described herein, shall be defined as, and limited to, the administering of physical punishment by means of paddling or spanking the buttocks. Consideration must be given to the age, size, emotional condition, and health of the students. When physical punishment is administered there is always the possibility of physical injury and subsequent legal ramifications. Therefore, extreme caution should be employed when administering corporal punishment.

However, nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as prohibiting an employee from using physical force, reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances, in defending himself against a physical attack by a student or to restrain a student from attacking another student or employee.