

CHAPTER 5.00 - STUDENTS

5.26 - Corporal Punishment

POLICY:

The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used. The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering corporal punishment. (1003.32(1), F.S.) If corporal punishment is administered without the express approval of the principal, a written record of each instance shall be immediately forwarded to the principal showing the student's name, reason for corporal punishment, person administering punishment, adult witness, and date and time of punishment. Where the absence of the principal has caused the administrative duties of the school to devolve upon the assistant principal, he/she may give approval for the use of corporal punishment.

- (1) Corporal punishment shall be administered by a member of the school administrative or instructional staff and in the presence of another adult who is informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reason for the punishment. Corporal punishment shall not be administered by a person while he/she is angry, nor shall such punishment be administered with malice.
- (2) In no case shall such punishment be unduly severe or degrading in nature.
- (3) Such punishment shall not be administered in the presence of other pupils.
- (4) Corporal punishment shall never be administered to a child known to be under medical treatment for an emotional disability or to a child suffering from a physical condition which would cause his/her life to be endangered by the use of such punishment.
- (5) Parents shall be notified verbally or in writing whenever corporal punishment is administered.
- (6) Parents who object to corporal punishment shall inform the principal in writing. In such cases, the principal shall provide alternate forms of punishment, which may include, but are not limited to time out rooms, in-school suspension, student peer review, parental involvement, and other forms of positive reinforcement, such as classes on appropriate classroom behavior.

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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1006.07 (6) (c), 1001.42 (17), F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1003.32 (1), F.S.

HISTORY:

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