

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Teachers shall be supported by the Board of Education and the administration in their efforts to teach good citizenship by requiring proper conduct. Therefore, corporal punishment shall be permitted in the Shelby County School System provided it is administered in compliance with the policy below and the guidelines set by the Shelby County Code of Conduct.

The Board of Education shall allow reasonable corporal punishment of unruly pupils. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after other options have been considered. If such punishment is required, it shall be administered with extreme care, tact, and caution, and then only by the principal, assistant principal, or administrative assistant in the presence of another certificated professional school employee. At no time shall corporal punishment be administered in the presence of another student.

For corporal punishment to be completely defensible and otherwise valid, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:

- A. School administrators shall obtain written consent of the parent, guardian, or other parental representative prior to the administration of corporal punishment.
- B. Corporal punishment should never be used unless the student is forewarned that specific misbehavior could warrant its use. It shall never be used as a first line of punishment but shall be considered as an option only after other corrective measures have been used.
- C. In all cases involving disciplinary action, school administrators shall insure a student's right to know the specific charges school authorities have brought against him/her, to present evidence in his/her own behalf, and to be treated fairly.
- D. The use of corporal punishment shall at all times be reasonable and proper.

Considerations in this regard shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Age of child
 2. Size of child
 3. Any student disability including physical, mental, psychological, and/or emotional conditions
 4. Ability of the child to understand the offenses
 5. Ability of the child to bear the punishment
 6. Overall physical condition of the child
 7. Appropriateness of the instrument used
- E. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the office of an administrator or in another previously designated place.
- F. School administrators shall punish corporally only in the presence of a certificated professional school employee, who must be informed beforehand of the reasons for the punishment.
- G. Corporal punishment shall not exceed three spans per paddling.
- H. School administrators who have administered corporal punishment shall provide the student's parent, guardian, or parental representative with a notice of the disciplinary action taken.
- I. Corporal punishment shall not be used on more than three occasions without an additional in-school conference between the school administrator and the parent, guardian, or parental representative.
- J. Corporal punishment shall not be administered in anger or with malice at any time.
- K. If a certified professional employee is opposed to corporal punishment, he/she will not be required to witness.