

District: Canton Public School District

Section: J - Students

Policy Code: JDB - Corporal Punishment

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

School personnel shall not use corporal punishment of any form at any time. **The superintendent has the authority to administer or authorize the use of corporal punishment by building level administrators.** Neither shall any acts of physical contact be used as disciplinary action. Such acts as pinching, pulling ears, shoving, etc., are strictly forbidden.

Further, verbal abuse shall not be used as a disciplinary action. Openly ridiculing individuals or groups, name-calling, sarcasm, and the use of negative comparisons is forbidden.

Maintaining proper conduct consists of constant staff supervision, time on task, student involvement in classroom management, and interesting learning activities.

When it is necessary for teachers to obtain assistance in maintaining student conduct, they may contact the parents or refer the student(s) to the principal or counselors. The optional learning center may be utilized at the discretion of the principal.

When discipline problems occur, teachers should use parent-teacher conferences, time out, and denial of privileges, student-teacher conferences, and other means, which cannot cause physical harm to students. Punishment, which involves bending over, standing or holding books for extended periods of time is unacceptable.

School personnel is prohibited from using corporal punishment on any student with a disability. A student with a disability is any student who has an IEP or Section 504 plan.

A public school teacher, assistant teacher, principal, assistant principal, or other school personnel shall not be granted immunity from liability for the use of corporal punishment on a student with a disability.

Corporal punishment administered in a reasonable manner by a school building administrator acting within the scope of his/her employment or function and in accordance with any state or federal laws or rules or regulations of the State Board of Education or the local school board does not constitute assault, simple assault, aggravated assault, battery, negligence or child abuse. No building level administrator so acting shall be named as an individual defendant or be held liable in a suit for civil damages alleged to have been suffered by a student as a result of the administration of corporal punishment, unless the court determines that the administrator acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting a wanton and willful disregard of human rights or safety.

SOURCE: Canton Public School District
Canton, Mississippi

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