CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT 5.302

(1) To the end that sound and effective discipline be maintained in the school as an indispensable prerequisite to successful learning in an educational climate conducive thereto, specifically named administrators, principals or teachers are authorized upon approval of the principal or his/her administrative designee to administer punishment for misconduct, according to law. Corporal punishment is defined as “The strokes applied as a penalty for acts of misconduct administered by the principal or designee upon the student’s buttocks with a paddle. No more than five (5) strokes may be applied for any one incident.”

(a) The principal or his/her designee shall specify the persons to administer corporal punishment, the time and place therefore, and care shall be taken not to hold the student so disciplined up to undue public ridicule or shame.

(b) Corporal punishment shall be administered by an adult in the presence of another adult.

(c) Corporal punishment shall be prudently administered to the buttocks of the offending student; provided, that corporal punishment shall not be administered to any student known to be under psychological, psychiatric or other medical treatment unless a pre-conference is held with appropriate medical or psychological authorities.

(d) The student to whom corporal punishment is to be administered is to be informed of his/her offense, and parents of minors shall be informed of reasons for corporal punishment promptly after its administration, if requested.

(e) Corporal punishment shall be administered, where indicated, without inordinate delay after the school authorities’ awareness of the punishable offense.

(f) The punishment so administered shall be reasonable and shall not be administered to injure or harm the student so disciplined.

(g) Corporal Punishment shall not be administered to any student when the parent has requested in writing that corporal punishment not be used.

(2) The School Board shall review the provisions for corporal punishment at a School Board meeting every three (3) years and shall take public testimony at the meeting.
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41; 1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 1000.21, 1001.43, 1001.54, 1002.20, 1003.31; 1003.32, F.S.

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