

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

In order to establish and maintain an educational climate conducive to learning, the Board permits reasonable corporal punishment of students in the schools.

Teachers will be supported by the Board and administration in their efforts to teach good citizenship by requiring proper conduct. While teachers will be reasonable in student-related demands, they need not tolerate disrespectful, boisterous, rough, and violent outbursts of language and temper on the part of students.

In all cases, corporal punishment shall be administered in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. In cases where a student maintains innocence of the offense, a brief but adequate statement of the reasons and supporting evidence will be given orally to the student with an opportunity for the student to explain his/her sides of the situation. Based upon all facts, if the situation warrants it, corporal punishment may then be administered without delay (see Due Process policy JCAA).
2. The use of corporal punishment should follow specific failures of other corrective measures to improve student behavior. Teachers should be prepared to provide information concerning alternate corrective measures used.
3. A teacher or principal may punish corporally only in the presence of a teacher or administrator (preferably the same sex as the offender) who should be informed beforehand of the reason for the punishment.
4. The instrument used in corporal punishment should be wisely selected.
5. Corporal punishment should not include more than three (3) licks administered to the buttocks. Other forms of corporal punishment are not permitted in the schools.
6. Utmost care, tact and judgment should be exercised, and all cases of corporal punishment will be documented by both the person administering the punishment and the witness and delivered to the principal. Such documentation shall be submitted by the end of the day the incident occurred.
7. School principals or teachers who have administered corporal punishment shall provide the student's parents or guardians, upon request, a written explanation of the reason (s) and the name of the witness.
8. Corporal punishment will not be administered in the visual presence of other students.
9. Those administering corporal punishment will consider the age, size, sex, and overall physical condition of the student.
10. Corporal punishment will not be administered in anger or with malice.

Special Education Students

All special education students will receive corporal punishment in accordance with their IEP and/or behavior management plan.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL
ADOPTED: November 5, 1978; REVISED: June 16, 1994; REVISED: May 21, 2009
LEGAL REF.: Ala. Code § 16-28A-1 (1975); Ala. Code § 16-1-14 (1975).