

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Corporal Punishment	Descriptor Code: 6.314	Issued Date: 12/17/09
		Rescinds: 6.314	Issued: 06/17/99

1 Any principal, assistant principal or teacher may use corporal punishment in a reasonable manner against
2 any student for good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within the public schools¹ in ac-
3 cordance with the following guidelines:²

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- 5 1. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after other less stringent measures have failed,
6 or if the conduct of a student is of such nature that corporal punishment is the only reasonable
7 form of punishment under the circumstances;
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- 9 2. The instrument to be used in administering corporal punishment shall be approved by the prin-
10 cipal;
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- 12 3. Corporal punishment shall be reasonable;
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- 14 4. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of another professional employee.
15 The witness must be informed beforehand and in the student's presence the reason for the pun-
16 ishment. At this time the student will be allowed to respond briefly to an arbitrary or contrived
17 application of punishment. However, there is no requirement that the student be afforded a formal
18 opportunity to present his/her side to the second person; and
- 19
- 20 5. The nature of the punishment will be such that it is in proportion to the gravity of the offense,
21 the apparent motive and disposition of the offender, and the influence of the offender's example
22 and conduct on others.
- 23

24 A disciplinary record shall be maintained and shall contain the name of the student, the type of miscon-
25 duct, the type of corporal punishment administered, the name of the person administering the punishment,
26 the name of the witness present and the date and time of punishment.

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28 Disciplinary records shall be filed in the school office and made available to parents or students, which-
29 ever is appropriate.³

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Legal References:

- 37 1. TCA 49-6-4103; *Ingraham v. Wright*, 430 U.S. 651 (1977)
- 38 2. TCA 49-6-4104
- 39 3. TCA 10-7-504(b)

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Cross References

Discipline Procedures 6.313
Student Records 6.600-604