

# Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description:  Corporal Punishment  Page 1 of 2	Policy Number: 6.314	Amended Date: 01/11/10
	Rescinds: 400-I-F-6	Reviewed: 01/10 Issued: 08/96

1 Any principal, assistant principal or teacher may use corporal punishment in a reasonable manner against any  
2 student for good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within the public schools<sup>1</sup> in accordance with the  
3 following guidelines:<sup>2</sup>

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- 5 1. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after other less stringent measures have failed or if the  
6 conduct of a student is of such nature that corporal punishment is the only reasonable form of  
7 punishment under the circumstances;
- 8 2. The instrument to be used in administering corporal punishment shall be approved by the principal;
- 9 3. Corporal punishment shall be reasonable;
- 10 4. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of another professional employee; and
- 11 5. The nature of the punishment will be such that it is in proportion to the gravity of the offense, the  
12 apparent motive and disposition of the offender and the influence of the offender's example and conduct  
13 on others.

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15 A disciplinary record shall be maintained and shall contain the name of the student, the type of misconduct, the  
16 type of corporal punishment administered, the name of the person administering the punishment, the name of  
17 the witness present and the date and time of punishment.

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19 Disciplinary records shall be filed in the school office and made available to parents or students; whichever is  
20 appropriate.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> TCA 49-6-4103; Ingraham v. Wright, 430 U.S. 651 (1977)

<sup>2</sup> TCA 49-6-4104

<sup>3</sup> TCA 10-7-504(b)

1 The following regulations shall apply to the use of *Corporal Punishment (49-6-4103)*:

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- 3 1. A student may be given a choice of either corporal punishment or another disciplinary measure as the
- 4 teacher or principal deems appropriate;
- 5 2. When corporal punishment is administered, it shall be done in a humane manner by the teacher
- 6 involved or principal and in the presence of another member of the staff. Punishment in no case shall
- 7 be administered in the presence of peers;
- 8 3. Corporal punishment shall be administered by striking the student with an open hand or wooden paddle
- 9 across the buttocks and in no other manner;
- 10 4. The number of licks inflicted shall not exceed three (3);
- 11 5. Corporal punishment must be appropriate for the misbehavior for which the student is being punished;
- 12 6. Corporal punishment is not to be administered in anger;
- 13 7. The building principal may require that all corporal punishment be administered through his/her office;
- 14 8. All cases of corporal punishment will be immediately reported to the principal in writing. Such report will
- 15 contain full details, date, pupil's name, cause of punishment administered, and result. Principals are to
- 16 enforce this regulation literally. (A copy of this report shall remain on file in the office of the principal for
- 17 two (2) years.)
- 18 9. Corporal punishment is not to be confused with self-defense upon the part of a teacher. Self-defense
- 19 may take whatever form is necessary and appropriate.
- 20 10. The use of physical force to seat a student or to separate students involved in a fight is not to be
- 21 construed as corporal punishment.
- 22 11. Written notification must be made to the building principal when a parent refuses corporal punishment
- 23 as a disciplinary option for his/her child. Parents are responsible for informing their child and students
- 24 are responsible for informing their teachers of this action. A record of all disciplinary action shall be
- 25 recorded, including date, offense and disciplinary action taken.
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