Hickman County Board of Education

	Descriptor Term: **Corporal Punishment**	Descriptor Code: **6.314**	Issued Date: **05/01/23**
		Rescinds: **6.314**	Issued: **03/01/21**

1. The principal or assistant principal may use corporal punishment in a reasonable manner against a student for good cause in order to maintain discipline and order within the public schools in accordance with the following guidelines:[1] Corporal punishment shall be administered only after other less stringent measures have failed or if the conduct of a student is of such nature that corporal punishment is the only reasonable form of punishment under the circumstances; Prior to administering the punishment, the student's teacher or principal shall document that he/she has:

    a. Acted to address the student's behavior;

    b. Provided consequences to the student to address the behavior;

    c. Consulted with the student's parent/guardian; and

    d. Considered the need to conduct an evaluation to determine whether the student has a disability per federal law.[2]

2. The instrument to be used shall be approved by the principal;

3. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of another professional employee;

4. The nature of the punishment shall be such that it is in proportion to the gravity of the offense, the apparent motive and disposition of the student, and the influence of the student's example and conduct on others;

5. Corporal punishment shall only be administered when the school has received written parental permission and followed procedures for the appropriate grade band.

GRADES K – 8:

Parents of students that persist in violating the school rules and discipline policy in grades K-4 may request corporal punishment for their child. The principal or assistant principal will use corporal punishment only if the parents have signed a permission form. The principal or assistant principal will use customary discretion in the administration of the corporal punishment, but no student should receive more than three (3) licks on any given day. Consideration shall be given to the age, size, emotional condition, and physical condition of the child.

GRADES 9 – 12:

No corporal punishment will be administered to a student in grades 9-12. Alternative forms of punishment/suspension will be provided.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If a student has a disability, corporal punishment shall be administered only when the school has received written parental permission. The parental permission must include the type of corporal punishment that is allowed and the circumstances under which it is permitted. This information will be kept on file at the school. It may be revoked at any time. The principal shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) any time corporal punishment is used.

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

Disciplinary records shall be filed in the school office and made available to parent(s)/guardian(s) or students, whichever is appropriate.

The Director of Schools shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy, including applicable recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4103; TCA 49-6-4104; TCA 49-6-4402
2. 20 USCA § 1400 et. seq.; Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 275

Cross References

Code of Behavior and Discipline 6.300
Student Records 6.600