

Descriptor Term: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT	Descriptor: JKA	Issued: 11/14/95
	Rescinds: JDA	Issued: 7/7/88

Reasonable corporal punishment of a student is permitted as a discipline measure in order to preserve an effective educational environment which is free from disruption and is conducive to furthering the educational mission of the Board. The following rules and regulations shall be consistently followed when corporal punishment is administered in the Tupelo Public School District:

1. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after less stringent measures such as two or more warnings, counseling, parental conferences and other forms of discipline have failed to produce the desired results, unless the conduct of a student is of such nature that corporal punishment is the only reasonable form of discipline under the circumstances.
2. Corporal punishment will be administered by use of a paddle applied to the buttocks in a controlled manner, within the bounds of moderation. Normally, no more than three (3) licks with the paddle will be administered at any one time.
3. Corporal punishment may be administered by the school principal, assistant principal, a teacher, or other certified employee.
4. Corporal punishment will be administered in the presence of another certified employee. The employee will be informed beforehand of the reason for the punishment in the presence of the student.
5. A certified employee who has administered corporal punishment must file a standard written report supplied by the District. Upon request, the principal will provide the child's parents with a copy of that written report explaining the reasons for administering the punishment and the name of the certified employee serving as a witness.
6. The certified employee will make a reasonable effort prior to utilizing corporal punishment to determine that the student has not been physically abused, nor has a medical or mental condition which may preclude such punishment. The employee administering the corporal punishment and the certified witness shall make reasonable inquiry into whether the student is under any disability or in a special education program, in which case no corporal punishment shall be administered without approval from the TPSD Special Education Office.
7. Before corporal punishment is administered, the student will be informed why he will be disciplined using corporal punishment and given an opportunity to present his side of this issue, briefly in the presence of a certified employee (as set forth in No. 4 above) who witnesses the punishment.
8. Corporal punishment shall not be administered for lack of academic performance or preparation.
9. The employee administering the corporal punishment shall determine the reasonableness of this method of punishment, which determination may be made by considering one or more of the following factors:

Previous warnings, counseling sessions, parental conferences, nature and severity of misconduct of the student, attitude and past behavior of the student, the age and physical condition of the student, the availability of other punishments, the effectiveness of other punishment and means of discipline, the student's disruption of the educational process and/or a review of the motives for the discipline.