

Rutherford County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Corporal Punishment	Descriptor Code: 6.314	Issued Date: 12/03/09
		Rescinds: 6.314	Issued: 01/15/09

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;
- 8 2. The instrument to be used in administering corporal punishment shall be approved by the prin-
9 cipal;
- 10 3. Corporal punishment shall be reasonable;
- 11 4. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of another professional employee;
- 12 5. The nature of the punishment will be such that it is in proportion to the gravity of the offense,
13 the apparent motive and disposition of the offender, and the influence of the offender's example
14 and conduct on others; and
- 15 6. The parent/guardian or legal custodian of each child enrolled in the Rutherford County School
16 System shall be required to execute a consent form annually and upon enrollment regarding the
17 use of corporal punishment for their child. The form will be contained in the Student Handbook
18 and Code of Discipline and will give the following options:
 - 19 a. I do not want my child paddled under any circumstances. I will come to the school immedi-
20 ately when requested.
 - 21 b. I want to be contacted before my child is paddled.
 - 22 c. Use principal/assistant principal's discretion and school board policy for determining if my child
23 should be paddled. I understand that I will be contacted prior to my child being paddled.
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25 A disciplinary record shall be maintained and shall contain the name of the student, the type of miscon-
26 duct, the type of corporal punishment administered, the name of the person administering the punishment,
27 the name of the witness present and the date and time of punishment.

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29 Disciplinary records shall be filed in the school office and made available to parents or students, which-
30 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

37 Discipline Procedures 6.313
38 Student Records 6.600-604