

4.39—CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The Benton School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or his/her designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall not be excessive or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the.

Corporal punishment may be administered by any certified employee of the District to any pupil for disruptive or unmanageable conduct; insubordination; profane, violent, vulgar, or insulting language; or other conduct that would tend to disrupt the educational process.

The Board directs that corporal (physical) punishment, when deemed necessary, will be administered according to the following requirements:

- A. Corporal punishment is authorized immediately for those acts of misconduct which are so antisocial or disruptive in nature as to shock the conscience; otherwise, corporal punishment shall not be administered unless an attempt has been made to modify the pupil's behavior by some means and unless the pupil has been told that a continuation or repetition of behavior may lead to corporal punishment.
- B. When corporal punishment is administered, a school administrator must be present.
- C. It will not be administered in the presence of other students nor in a spirit of malice or anger, nor will be excessive.
- D. It will be administered to the lower posterior only.
- E. Refusal to take corporal punishment may result in suspension. Parents who prefer suspension rather than corporal punishment may sign a discipline form that is available in the principal's office.
- F. When corporal punishment is used, a written report will be made and signed by the employee administering the corporal punishment. It shall also state the reason for its use and the name of the witness. The witness shall also sign the report verifying its accuracy.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a form of discipline for a student who is intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-503 (b)

Date Adopted: 06/10/2002

Last Revised: 07/08/2019