

Any principal employed by the Webster County Board of Education, or his or her designee, in order to maintain proper control and discipline over pupils under his or her care and supervision, may, in the exercise of sound discretion, administer corporal punishment to any pupil or pupils under his or her care and supervision. No other employee of the board or any other person, including the parents or guardian of such child or children, may administer corporal punishment in any school or on any school property in this school district. The following requirements must be strictly adhered to in the administering of corporal punishment:

1. The corporal punishment shall not be excessive or unduly severe.
2. Corporal punishment shall never be used as a first line of punishment for misbehavior unless the pupil was informed beforehand that specific misbehavior could occasion its use; provided, however, that corporal punishment may be employed as a first line of punishment for those acts of misconduct which are so antisocial or disruptive in nature as to shock the conscience.
3. Corporal punishment must be administered in the presence of a principal or assistant principal authorizing such punishment, or the designee of the principal or assistant principal who is employed by the board of education, and the witnessing principal or assistant principal, or the designee of the principal or assistant principal, must be informed beforehand and in the presence of the pupil of the reason for the punishment.
4. The principal, assistant principal or his or her designee who administered corporal punishment must provide the child's parents, upon request, a written explanation for the reasons for the punishment and the name of the principal or assistant principal, or designee of the principal or assistant principal who was present; provided, however, that such an explanation shall not be used as evidence in any subsequent civil action brought as a result of said corporal punishment.
5. Corporal punishment shall not be administered to a child whose parents or legal guardian have filed with the principal of the school a statement expressly objecting to the use of corporal punishment or a statement from a medical doctor licensed in Georgia stating that corporal punishment is detrimental to the child's mental or emotional stability.

In addition to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-731, the following requirements and restrictions as to the administering of corporal punishment shall also apply to all persons who shall administer corporal punishment in this school system:

1. Corporal punishment shall be administered in private and not in the presence of other students.
2. Corporal punishment shall be administered only in the presence of the person administering such punishment and one witness, both of whom must be professionally certified employees of this school system.
3. Corporal punishment shall not be administered to a student who refuses to accept corporal punishment in lieu of other punishment.

**BOARD POLICY**  
**Corporal Punishment**

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**Descriptor Code: JDA**

4. Where corporal punishment has been tried on several occasions and the conduct of the child has not improved, the principal shall explore the use of other forms of punishment.

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**ADOPTED: April 10, 2006**

O.C.G.A. 20-2-0730 Corporal punishment

**Webster County School District**