

Descriptor Term: CORRECTIVE PROCEDURES FOR MISCONDUCT

Descriptor Code: JDA

Rescinds: JDA

Board Approved: 12/07/92

Previously Approved: 4/04/88

Because the use of corporal punishment to control the behavior of students in school has been demonstrated to be generally ineffective and has fallen into disrepute in recent years in the national culture, the Board of Trustees herewith directs that effective July 1, 1991, corporal punishment (paddling, other physical contact style of punishment, or any other form of punishment that generates intentional physical pain) will be and has been excluded from utilization by school personnel in the Gulfport School District for purposes of correcting impermissible student behaviors.

Permissible Corrective Procedures:

In the place of corporal punishment, corrective procedures which are permitted include but are not limited to the following:

1. Group and individual counseling conducted by any appropriate and knowledgeable certified school employee leading to reasonable self-corrective action by the students
2. Detention with purposeful learning activities assigned and monitored
3. Parent-teacher-student conference in which the parent becomes a cooperative enforcer of corrective action for the student
4. Suspension, from 1 to 5 days at the discretion of the principal, from 6 to 10 days with the express approval of the Superintendent
5. In-school suspension
6. Procedures of Assertive Discipline (with each school establishing and publicizing to students and parents clear definitions and ranges of possible consequences of the form of Assertive Discipline to be used by the school
7. Merit-demerit system (another model of Assertive Discipline) to be used in the secondary schools and/or upper elementary grades
8. Filing of charges and arrests of student by law enforcement personnel for civil and criminal misdemeanors and felonies (drug abuse, physical and verbal assault, possession/use of a weapon, etc.)

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9. Structured Probation: a specific probationary period during which the student must accomplish certain conduct and/or academic objectives specified and monitored regularly by the principal or his/her designee
10. Conduct Contract: a contract mutually developed between the student, the parent, and the school principal for the student to achieve one or more specific conduct objectives which include specific criteria by which to assess achievement
11. Corrective action assigned by a Teacher-and-Peer Student Conduct Review Panel, a committee composed of at least two teachers and three to five students, which committee will be familiar with all conduct rules of the school and which committee accepts a serious responsibility to review such cases as offending students may request (excluding cases involving drug abuse, weapons, physical assault involving serious bodily harm, police arrest, and other special types of cases the principal may elect to exclude), to which reasonable corrective action the principal, the offending student, and his/her parents agree and the student implements.
12. School or community services (at school: picking up paper and debris on campus, older students tutoring younger students, etc.; in the community: accepting short term public service assignments from community agencies, visits to people in nursing homes, collecting food and clothing for the Salvation Army and Feed My Sheep, working with Habitat for Humanity, etc.)

In any situation for which the above forms of punishment are inadequate or inappropriate, the principal is authorized to exercise discretion to impose some other reasonable and appropriate remedial course of action. Also, as new disciplinary strategies of promise emerge, such strategies may be applied by school principal so long as due process rights are upheld and reasonable prudence is exercised in applying such strategies.

LEGAL REV.: Ingraham v. Wright 97 S. Ct. 1401 (1977)

With the adoption of this adjusted policy, the former JDA (4/4/88) and JDAA (8/20/90) policies are herewith repealed and replaced with this policy effective December 7, 1992.