



## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

### J-4

It is the policy of the Mountain Brook Board of Education that corporal punishment shall be administered only as a last resort in disciplining students. Corporal punishment must always be a deliberate, well-thought out action on the part of school officials. Those procedural due process safeguards outlined in this section shall be afforded all students. Corporal punishment shall not be administered without the knowledge of the school principal and the permission of the parent or guardian.

#### I. Due Process Guidelines

The following procedural due process safeguard must be present in each case involving administration of corporal punishment:

- A. Corporal punishment should not be used unless the student was informed beforehand that specific misbehavior could occasion its use. Corporal punishment should not be used as a first line of punishment. Its use should follow specific failure of other corrective measures.
- B. A teacher or principal must punish corporally in the presence of a second school official (teacher or principal), who must be informed beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reasons for the punishment.
- C. In cases where a student protests innocence of the offense or ignorance of the rule, a brief but adequate opportunity should be provided for the student to explain his side of the situation.
- D. School officials who have administered corporal punishment must provide the child's parents or legal guardians, upon request, a written explanation of the reasons and name of the school official who was present as a witness.

In addition to the above Supreme Court mandates, the following shall apply to any use of corporal punishment in schools of this school district:

- A. Corporal punishment shall be administered in the office of the principal or in such place or places as may be designated by the principal.

- B. Corporal punishment shall not be administered in the presence of other students.

Adopted: January 22, 1979