

STUDENTS

A. Control of Students

The discipline and control of students shall be in the hands of the teachers and principals. The supervision and control of students should be maintained during the period while the student is in school and while he/she is going to or coming from home.

B. Corporal Punishment

The superintendent shall see that all employees of the school board are aware of the Code of Virginia, § 22.1-279.1, Corporal punishment prohibited cited in the legal reference to this policy.

Employees shall also be informed that the board demands compliance with both the word and intent of the law.

C. Academic Punishment

Academic punishment, which is defined as reducing credit previously earned, shall not be used. A student's academic grade shall be based solely on his/her achievement. Other types of discipline rather than an arbitrary reduction in credit earned should be employed when punishment is necessary.

This statement should not be interpreted to preclude a student's average grade being lowered by his/her failure to do assigned work. A student cannot be given credit for work not done such as may occur when he/she fails to do assigned work or when he/she had an unexcused absence from class resulting in his/her not having the privilege of making up missed work. The teacher will not penalize the student beyond the period of the unexcused absence.

D. Group Punishment

The use of group punishment in the school division is not endorsed by the board and its use is strongly discouraged.

Legal Reference:

Code of Va., § 22.1-277.1. Disciplinary authority of school boards under certain circumstances.-- A school board may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 22.1-277, require any student who has been (i) charged with an offense relating to the Commonwealth's laws, or with a violation of school board policies, on weapons, alcohol or drugs, or intentional injury to another person; (ii) found guilty or not innocent of a crime which resulted in or could have resulted in injury to others, or of a crime for which the disposition ordered by a court is required to be disclosed to the superintendent of the school division pursuant to § 16.1-305.1; or (iii) expelled pursuant to §22.1-277.01,

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Discipline and Corporal/Academic/Group Punishment (continued)

to attend an alternative education program, including, but not limited to, night school, adult education, or any other educational program designed to offer instruction to students for whom the regular program of instruction may be inappropriate. A school board may require such student to attend such programs regardless of where the crime occurred.

As used in this section, the term "charged" means that a petition or warrant has been filed or is pending against a pupil. (1995)

Code of Va., §22.1-279.1 Corporal punishment prohibited A. No teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth shall subject a student to corporal punishment. This prohibition of corporal punishment shall not be deemed to prevent (i) the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control; (ii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance which threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property; (iii) the use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting physical harm on himself; (iv) the use of reasonable and necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; or (v) the use of reasonable and necessary force to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects or controlled substances or paraphernalia which are upon the person of the student or within his control.

B. In determining whether a person was acting within the exceptions provided in this section, due deference shall be given to reasonable judgments at the time of the event which were made by a teacher, principal or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated by the Commonwealth.

C. For the purposes of this section, "corporal punishment" means the infliction of, or causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student as a means of discipline.

This definition shall not include physical pain, injury or discomfort caused by the use of incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact or other actions designed to maintain order and control as permitted in subdivision (i) of subsection A of this section or the use of reasonable and necessary force as permitted by subdivisions (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) of subsection A of this section, or by participation in practice or competition in an interscholastic sport, or participation in physical education or an extracurricular activity.

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