

# Claiborne County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Discipline Procedures</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.313</b>	Issued Date: <b>01/11/07</b>
		Rescinds: <b>ch. 6/p. 98-100</b>	Issued:

- 1     **I.     Discipline defined**
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- 3     Good student discipline is a condition wherein pupils work toward desired goals willingly, happily,
- 4     patiently and successfully. Such a condition requires building, through love, sympathy, respect, tact
- 5     and patience. These attributes should bring students into an effective learning environment.
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- 7     **II.    The objective of school discipline**
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- 9     To assist pupils in developing self-control, self-direction and self-respect.
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- 11    **III.   Cause of disorder**
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- 13    It must be either physical or mental. The cause must be located; it must be removed and conditions
- 14    must be changed to prevent the cause from leading to a repetition of the disorder.
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- 16    **IV.   Authority for discipline**
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- 18    (TCA 49-6-4102, 49-6-4103); "Every teacher is authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable
- 19    for any disorderly conduct in school or on the playground of the school, or on any school bus going
- 20    to or returning from school, or during intermission or recess period. Any teacher or school principal
- 21    may use corporal punishment in a reasonable manner against any pupil for good cause in order to
- 22    maintain discipline and order within the public schools." This authority is extended to include school
- 23    sponsored activities and while on a school bus going to or returning from such activities.<sup>1</sup>
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- 25    **V.    Punishments**
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- 27    1.     In general
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- 29         When pupils are under the jurisdiction of the school, teachers are said to stand "in loco
- 30         parentis", in the place of the parent, to the students. In order to properly carry out the func-
- 31         tions of the school, it is necessary for the teacher to have authority to direct the pupil and
- 32         to punish him/her for infractions, as a parent would.
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- 34    2.     Process of determining punishment
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- 36         Rules must be reasonable, penalties must be reasonable and the procedure for determining
- 37         whether the individual has broken the rule and warranted the penalty must be reasonable.
- 38         Procedural due process must be adequate.
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The following is suggested:

- a. Oral or written notice of the charges against the student should be given.
- b. If the student denied the charges, an explanation of the evidence against him/her should be presented and he/she be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the story.
- c. Corporal punishment should be administered in the presence of another teacher who should be informed before hand, and in the presence of the student, the reason for the punishment.
- d. A written explanation of the reason for the corporal punishment and the name of the witnessing teacher should be given the parent upon request.
- e. The principal may choose to elect to let the student make a choice of the method of discipline.

### 3. Specific punishments

- a. Withholding of privileges

Withholding of privileges is a punishment generally judicially accepted. However, an activity from which a pupil is barred because of conduct must be one in the category of a privilege rather than a right of the student. The ban must not be part of the basic curriculum; however, it may be part of the extra-curricular activities. Even extra-curricular activities may not be barred arbitrarily.

### Additional Guidelines

1. A student shall not be suspended solely because charges are pending against him/her in juvenile or other court.
2. A principal shall not impose successive short term suspensions that cumulatively exceed ten (10) days for the same offense.<sup>2</sup>
3. A teacher or other school official shall not reduce or authorize the reduction of a student's grade because of discipline problems except in deportment or citizenship.
4. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade promotion solely on the basis of absences except as provided by board policy.
5. A student shall not be denied the passing of a course or grade promotion solely on the basis of failure to:
  - a. pay any activity fee;
  - b. pay a library or other school fine; or
  - c. make restitution for lost or damaged school property.

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1. TCA 49-6-4012 - 4015

2. TCA 49-6-3007(h)