Corporal Punishment

I. No teacher, principal, or other person employed by a school board or employed in a school operated in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall subject a student to corporal punishment.

II. "Corporal punishment" means the infliction of, or causing the infliction of physical pain on a student as a means of discipline. The 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 outlined below, or caused by participation in practice or competition in an interscholastic sport, physical education, or an extracurricular activity.

III. Prince William County Public Schools employees will adhere to Virginia Code, § 22.1-279.1 regarding the use of corporal punishment. The prohibition of corporal punishment shall not be deemed to prevent:

   A. The use of incidental, minor, or reasonable physical contact, or other actions designed to maintain order or control;
   B. The use of reasonable and necessary force to quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance that threatens physical injury to persons or damage to property;
   C. The use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent a student from inflicting harm on himself;
   D. The use of reasonable and necessary force for self-defense or the defense of others; and
   E. 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.

IV. 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 the School Board.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.