

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to corporal punishment; amending s.  
3 1002.20, F.S.; prohibiting school district employees  
4 from using corporal punishment on public school  
5 students; amending ss. 1003.32, 1006.07, and 1012.28,  
6 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
7 act; providing an effective date.  
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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11 **Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section**  
12 **1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

13 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public  
14 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
15 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
16 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
17 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
18 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

19 (4) DISCIPLINE.—

20 (c) Corporal punishment.—A school district employee may  
21 not use 1. In accordance with s. 1003.32, corporal punishment,  
22 as defined in s. 1003.01, on ~~of~~ a public school student ~~may only~~  
23 ~~be administered by a teacher or school principal within~~  
24 ~~guidelines of the school principal and according to district~~  
25 ~~school board policy. Another adult must be present and must be~~

~~informed in the student's presence of the reason for the punishment. Upon request, the teacher or school principal must provide the parent with a written explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the other adult who was present.~~

~~2. A district school board having a policy authorizing the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline shall include in such policy a requirement that a parent provide consent for the school to administer corporal punishment. The district school board policy may require such consent for the school year, or before each administration. The district school board shall review its policy on corporal punishment once every 3 years during a district school board meeting held pursuant to s. 1001.372. The district school board shall take public testimony at the board meeting. If such board meeting is not held in accordance with this subparagraph, the portion of the district school board's policy authorizing corporal punishment expires.~~

**Section 2. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 1003.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1003.32 Authority of teacher; responsibility for control of students; district school board and principal duties.—Subject to law and to the rules of the district school board, each teacher or other member of the staff of any school shall have such authority for the control and discipline of students as may be assigned to him or her by the principal or the principal's designated representative and shall keep good order in the

51 classroom and in other places in which he or she is assigned to  
52 be in charge of students.

53 (1) In accordance with this section and within the  
54 framework of the district school board's code of student  
55 conduct, teachers and other instructional personnel shall have  
56 the authority to undertake any of the following actions in  
57 managing student behavior and ensuring the safety of all  
58 students in their classes and school and their opportunity to  
59 learn in an orderly and disciplined classroom:

60 ~~(k) Use corporal punishment according to school board~~  
61 ~~policy and at least the following procedures, if a teacher feels~~  
62 ~~that corporal punishment is necessary:~~

63 ~~1. The use of corporal punishment shall be approved in~~  
64 ~~principle by the principal before it is used, but approval is~~  
65 ~~not necessary for each specific instance in which it is used.~~  
66 ~~The principal shall prepare guidelines for administering such~~  
67 ~~punishment which identify the types of punishable offenses, the~~  
68 ~~conditions under which the punishment shall be administered, and~~  
69 ~~the specific personnel on the school staff authorized to~~  
70 ~~administer the punishment.~~

71 ~~2. A teacher or principal may administer corporal~~  
72 ~~punishment only in the presence of another adult who is informed~~  
73 ~~beforehand, and in the student's presence, of the reason for the~~  
74 ~~punishment.~~

75 ~~3. A teacher or principal who has administered punishment~~

76 ~~shall, upon request, provide the student's parent with a written~~  
77 ~~explanation of the reason for the punishment and the name of the~~  
78 ~~other adult who was present.~~

79 **Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraph**  
80 **(b) of subsection (2) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are**  
81 **amended to read:**

82 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
83 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
84 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
85 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
86 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
87 welfare of students, including:

88 (1) CONTROL OF STUDENTS.—

89 (a) Adopt rules for the control, discipline, in-school  
90 suspension, suspension, and expulsion of students and decide all  
91 cases recommended for expulsion. Suspension hearings are  
92 exempted from the provisions of chapter 120. Expulsion hearings  
93 shall be governed by ss. 120.569 and 120.57(2) and are exempt  
94 from s. 286.011. However, the student's parent must be given  
95 notice of the provisions of s. 286.011 and may elect to have the  
96 hearing held in compliance with that section. ~~The district~~  
97 ~~school board may prohibit the use of corporal punishment, if the~~  
98 ~~district school board adopts or has adopted a written program of~~  
99 ~~alternative control or discipline.~~

100 (2) CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT.—Adopt a code of student

101 conduct for elementary schools and a code of student conduct for  
102 middle and high schools and distribute the appropriate code to  
103 all teachers, school personnel, students, and parents, at the  
104 beginning of every school year. Each code shall be organized and  
105 written in language that is understandable to students and  
106 parents and shall be discussed at the beginning of every school  
107 year in student classes, school advisory council meetings, and  
108 parent and teacher association or organization meetings. Each  
109 code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and  
110 discipline adopted by the district school board and shall be  
111 made available in the student handbook or similar publication.  
112 Each code shall include, but is not limited to:

113 (b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring  
114 discipline, ~~including corporal punishment.~~

115 **Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 1012.28, Florida**  
116 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

117 1012.28 Public school personnel; duties of school  
118 principals.—

119 (5) Each school principal shall perform such duties as may  
120 be assigned by the district school superintendent, pursuant to  
121 the rules of the district school board. Such rules shall  
122 include, but are not limited to, rules relating to  
123 administrative responsibility, instructional leadership in  
124 implementing the state academic standards and the overall  
125 educational program of the school to which the school principal

126 | is assigned, submission of personnel recommendations to the  
127 | district school superintendent, administrative responsibility  
128 | for records and reports, ~~administration of corporal punishment,~~  
129 | and student suspension.

130 |       **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.