



Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050

Phone 307-777-7673 Fax 307-777-6234 Website www.k12.wy.us

June 10, 2008

Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education

Jordan Riak, Executive Director

P.O. Box 1033

Alamo, CA 94504-4033

RE: Spanking in Wyoming's Schools

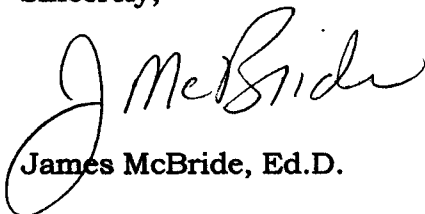
Dear Mr. Riak:

I am writing in response to your May 27, 2008 letter regarding the use of corporal punishment in Wyoming's public schools. As Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Wyoming I do not condone or support the use of spanking or other measures of corporal punishment within our schools in any manner.

However, there is no law in Wyoming which specifically addresses the use of spanking by local school districts. The statutes allow local districts the ability to adopt rules for reasonable forms of punishment and disciplinary measures. See W.S. § 21-4-308. Some local districts have interpreted this section as authority to engage in spanking as a disciplinary measure. The situations where such a punishment could be applied, along with procedural safeguards, are carefully outlined by these districts within student handbooks. In addition, screening is conducted by the State of Wyoming, Professional Teaching Standards Board, for all individuals interacting with children in Wyoming's public schools. Furthermore, the Department is unaware of any instances where spanking or other forms of corporal punishment are actually utilized within Wyoming's schools.

While I appreciate the concerns you have raised, I have viewed your website and have little faith that this response will be acceptable to you. In addition, the sarcasm in your letter is noted and will not be responded to by this Agency. If further information is needed, please advise. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James McBride, Ed.D.

JM/ tsh

Cc: Joe Simpson, Deputy Superintendent, WDE
Mary Kay Hill, Director of Administration, WDE