

Students

Physical Restraint(s)/Seclusion

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The Board of Education believes that maintaining an orderly, safe environment is conducive to learning and is an appropriate expectation of all staff members within the district. To the extent that staff actions comply with all applicable statutes and Board policy governing the use of physical restraint or seclusion of students, staff members will have the full support of the Board of Education in their efforts to maintain a safe environment.

The Board recognizes that there are times when it becomes necessary for staff to use reasonable restraint to protect a student from harming himself/herself or to protect others from harm.

School personnel shall employ non-confrontive intervention techniques wherever possible. However, school personnel may employ the proper use of restraint and/or seclusion when necessary. Training in the use of such techniques shall be mandatory for staff who provide direct care, education or supervision for students receiving special education who may require de-escalation or physical intervention, or students being evaluated for eligibility for special education pursuant to statute and awaiting determinations.

Reasonable restraint is defined as immobilization of the individual's opportunity for movement by staff member(s) through direct contact using devices and techniques designed to control acute or incidental aggressive behaviors. Such constraint will not be used except as necessary to ensure a student's safety and that of others and then only for as long as is necessary for control of the situation. Such restraint is not to be used as a disciplinary measure. Physical restraint may not be included as a behavior modification in a Behavior Intervention Plan.

Restraint does not include briefly holding a person in order to calm or comfort the person; restraint involving the minimum contact necessary to safely escort a person from one area to another; or medical devices, including but not limited to, supports prescribed by a health care provider to achieve proper body position or balance.

Seclusion is defined as the confinement of an individual in a room, with staff supervision, in a manner that prevents the person from leaving; provided such seclusion does not include any confinement of a person at risk in which the person is physically able to leave the area of confinement, including, but not limited to, in-school suspension and time-out.

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Time-out is not considered seclusion. Involuntary seclusion is permitted in accordance with the student's IEP or in an emergency to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the person or others so long as it is in the least restrictive alternative.

Following all incidents of physical restraint or seclusion, staff will complete appropriate forms. Parent will be notified for each restraint within 24 hours and a copy of the form will be mailed home within 48 hours. A copy of the form will be submitted to the Office of Pupil Personnel Services within 48 hours of the incident.

Adopted: January 24, 2011