



Title: **Restraint, and Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force**

Code: 3246

Section: WSSDA Model Policies

Section: 3000 - Students

Commented [A1]: Language in title removed to focus this policy and procedure more specifically on restraint and isolation and remove references to the use of reasonable force. Restraint and isolation laws don't necessarily directly address the use of reasonable force in the school setting, as that is generally covered under criminal statutes governing when force may be lawfully used.

It is the policy of the ~~Board of Directors~~ board that the district maintains a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will remain free from unreasonable restraint, ~~restraint devices, and~~ isolation, ~~and other uses of physical force~~. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is intended to address district students. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of restraint or other reasonable force as necessary with adults or other youth from outside the district as allowed by law.

Use of restraint, or isolation, ~~and other forms of reasonable force~~ may only be used on any student when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an imminent likelihood of serious harm as defined by ~~RCW 71.05.020 and Chapter 392-172A WAC~~ RCW 28A.600.485 and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. ~~Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or district property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. The restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.~~

The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy, ~~including review, reporting and parent/guardian notification of incidents involving restraint or isolation as required by law, and ensure that the district complies with laws governing restraint and isolation of students. Additionally, the superintendent will annually report to the board on incidents involving the use of force.~~

Commented [A2]: This language is not a legal requirement. The board, however, may choose to impose this report requirement on the superintendent or designee.

Last Revised: ~~July 31, 2024~~ June 1, 2026

Classification: **Critical**

Prior Revised Dates: **12.08; 12.11; 07.13; 12.13; 07.15; 03/01/2016; 12/16/2021; 07/31/2024**

Legal References:

- [RCW 9A.16.020 Use of force - When lawful](#)
- [RCW 9A.16.100 Use of force on children - Policy - Actions presumed unreasonable](#)
- [RCW 28A.150.300 Corporal Punishment Prohibited - Adoption of policy](#)
- [RCW 28A.155.210 Use of restraint or isolation - Requirement for procedures to notify parent or guardian](#)
- [RCW 28A.600.485 - Restraint of students with individualized education programs or plans developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 - Procedures - Summary of incidents of isolation or restraint - Publishing to web site. \[as amended by SHB 1240\]](#)
- [RCW 28A.600.485 Restraint of students—Use of restraint or isolation specified in individualized education programs or plans developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973—Procedures—Summary of incidents of isolation or restraint—Publishing to website](#)
- [Chapter 392-172A WAC - Rules for the provision of special education](#)
- [RCW 71.05.020 Definitions](#)
- [WAC 392-172A-01092 Imminent](#)

- [WAC 392-172A-01107 Isolation](#)
- [WAC 392-172A-01109 Likelihood of serious harm](#)
- [WAC 392-172A-01162 Restraint](#)
- [WAC 392-172A-02076 Prohibited practices](#)
- [WAC 392-172A-02110 Isolation or restraint—Conditions](#)

Commented [A3]: These regulations are now outdated in light of the recent changes to RCW 28A.600.485, and updates will be made through OSPI.

Management Resources:

- [2021 - December Issue](#)
- [2016 - March Issue](#)
- [2015 - July Policy Alert](#)
- [2013 - December Issue](#)
- [2013 - July Issue](#)
- Policy News, December 2008 Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Cross References:

- [2161 - Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students](#)
- [2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)