

Student Restraint and Seclusion

This policy shall be implemented only with regard for the safety, welfare and dignity of all members of the school community. Restraint and/or Seclusion (“techniques”) shall be used as a last resort to address situations in which the safety and wellbeing of students may be at risk.

Definition:

This policy includes both mechanical and physical restraint.

Physical Restraint means the use of physical force to restrict the free movement of a student’s body without using any mechanical materials or devices.

Mechanical Restraint means the use of any device or material on or near the student’s body that restricts freedom of movement. This definition does not include mechanical supports or protective devices.

Seclusion refers to involuntary confinement of a student in a space from which egress is prevented. Seclusion does not refer to “time out” or separation for the purpose of “cooling off.”

Restraint may be used under the following circumstances:

1. A student’s behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others; *and*
2. Less restrictive interventions did not sufficiently mitigate the imminent danger of serious physical harm.

Staff duty during the use of Restraint or Seclusion:

1. District employees shall maintain continual visual observation of the student while using restraint or seclusion;
2. The technique shall end when the student’s behavior no longer present imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
3. Restraint or seclusion shall only be used by school employees who are trained in using the techniques, unless there is an emergency situation, in which the staff is to use its best professional judgment until trained personnel can step in to assist.
4. The technique shall not impede the students ability to breathe or speak; *and*
5. The technique shall be proportional to the student’s age and physical condition.

6. A restraint technique will not be implemented using any form of prone restraint.

Staff duty following the use of Restraint or Seclusion:

1. Within 24 hours provide written or verbal notice of the use of a technique to the parent or guardian of the student;
2. Within 48 hours of the use of a technique, provide the student's parent or guardian with written documentation of the incident on a form developed under the direction of and approval by the Superintendent;
3. Convene a team to review the strategies used to address a student's dangerous behavior if a technique has been administered two or more times during a 30-day period.

The Board directs the Superintendent to:

1. Include guidelines, which are compliant with law and this policy, in both the District and Schools Safety Plan; and
2. Establish reporting guidelines and procedures for documentation of the use of these techniques; and
3. Determine a representative who will develop crisis prevention training and procedures to be followed by all District employees. Training on specific restraint techniques and prevention will be provided to crisis teams and other key staff. All staff will follow procedures which support the full continuum of crisis prevention including a student's successful reintegration into the school and classroom environment after a technique has been used.
4. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent a school from calling law enforcement to restrain a student when deemed necessary by administration or designee; however, all reporting requirements shall remain in effect.

Adopted: July 2018

Updated: January 2026