

Use of Restraint and Seclusion

The Board is dedicated to the development and application of best practices within the district's educational/behavioral programs. It is the intent of the Board to establish a policy that defines the circumstances that must exist and the requirements that must be met prior to, during and after the use of restraint and/or seclusion as an intervention with district students.

Definitions

"Physical restraint" means the restriction of a student's movement by one or more persons holding the student or applying physical pressure upon the student. "Physical restraint" does not include touching or holding a student without the use of force for the purpose of directing the student or assisting the student in completing a task or activity.

"Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room from which the student is prevented from leaving. Seclusion does not include "time out."

"Time out" means the removal of a student for a short period of time to provide the student with an opportunity to regain self-control, in a setting from which the student is not physically prevented from leaving.

The use of physical restraint and/or seclusion is only permitted as a part of a behavioral support plan when other less restrictive interventions would not be effective and the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.

Except in the case of an emergency, only staff current in the required training in accordance with the district designated physical restraint and seclusion training program will implement physical restraint or seclusion with a student. In an emergency, physical restraint and/or seclusion may also be used by a school administrator, teacher or other school employee [or volunteer] as necessary to prevent a student from harming his/herself, students, staff or others or from causing damage to district property. The use of physical restraint/seclusion under these circumstances is only allowed so long as the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to themselves, others or to district property. Any student being restrained or secluded within the district whether in an emergency or as a part of a plan shall be constantly monitored by staff for the duration of the intervention. Any room used for seclusion of a student must allow staff full view of the student in all areas of the room and be free of potentially hazardous conditions such as unprotected light fixtures and electrical outlets.

The district shall utilize the Umatilla Morrow ESD training program of physical restraints and seclusion for use in the district. As required by state regulation, the selected program shall include: behavioral support, prevention, de-escalation and crisis response techniques. Any program selected by the district must be in compliance with state and federal law with respect to the use of restraint and/or seclusion.

An annual review of the use of physical restraint and seclusion, including a review of all district cases involving restraint and/or seclusion, shall be completed to ensure compliance with district policies and procedures. The results of the annual review shall be documented.

The district shall investigate all complaints regarding the use of restraint and/or seclusion practices according to the procedures outlined in Board policy KL and KL AR —“Public Complaints.”

The superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to carry out the requirements set forth in this policy and to meet any additional requirements established by law.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 339.250

OAR 581-021-0061

OAR 581-021-0062