

Unity School District - Board of Education

Administrative Rule 447.15

Seclusion and Restraint

Last Revised 7/14/2020

All certified staff members, support staff members, contracted employees, and student teachers shall follow all regulations as set in 2019 Wisconsin Act 118. Seclusion is defined as the involuntary confinement of a student, apart from other students, in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. Doors connecting the room or area in which the student is secluded or other rooms or areas cannot have a lock on it. Locks are expressly prohibited. Physical Restraint is defined as a restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to freely move his/her torso, arms, legs or head. Prone restraints are expressly prohibited. The use of vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle is permissible and is not considered a mechanical restraint. Staff members performing seclusion and restraint must be trained in an evidence-based instructional model that provides positive behavioral supports and interventions, safe physical escort, understanding antecedents, de-escalation, conflict prevention, and conflict management. Untrained staff members may engage in unforeseen emergency exceptions and may use physical restraint on a student at school only in an emergency and only if there is no trained staff member immediately available (please see Board Policy 447.1 Use of Force).

An incident is defined as an occurrence of a staff member or law enforcement officer using seclusion or restraint on a student. It is considered one incident if immediately following the use of seclusion or restraint, the student's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent physical safety risk, and the covered individual or law enforcement officer resumes the use of seclusion or physical restraint.

Within two business days following each incident, the principal (or designee) must meet with the staff who participated in the incident to write a report and discuss: 1) the event preceding, during, and following the use of seclusion or physical restraint, 2) how to prevent the need for seclusion or physical restraint by including factors that may have contribute to the escalation of behaviors, alternative to physical restraint, and other strategies that the school principal or designee deems appropriate. This meeting is mandatory for all students. The written report must contain all of the following information: the student's name; the date, time, and duration of the use of seclusion or physical restraint; a description of the incident, including a description of the actions of the student, before, during and after the incident; and the names and titles of the staff member and any law enforcement officers present during the incident. The principal or designee must retain a copy of the report and provide a copy to the parent within 3 business days of the incident through first class mail, electronic transmission, or hand delivery.

Annually by October 1st, the principal or designee must submit to the School Board a report that includes data disaggregated as follows:

- The number of incidents of seclusion during the previous school year;
- The total number of students who were involved in incidents of seclusion during the previous school year;
- The number of students with disabilities who were involved in incidents of seclusion during the previous school year;
- The number of incidents of physical restraint during the previous school year;
- The total number of students who were involved in incidents of physical restraint during the previous school year; and

- The number of students with disabilities who were involved in incidents of physical restraint during the previous school year.

Annually by December 1st, a report must be provided to the state superintendent that contains the same disaggregated information as stated above for each school within the district.