

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

5.341

The District shall implement a system of positive behavior interventions and supports to prevent and respond to dangerous student behaviors that may cause or create a threat of imminent risk of serious injury to the student and/or others. The use of seclusion in the District's schools is prohibited.

Definitions

"Crisis intervention plan" - An individualized action plan for school personnel to implement when a student exhibits dangerous behavior that may lead to imminent risk of serious injury.

"Imminent risk of serious injury" – The threat posed by dangerous behavior that may cause serious physical harm to self or others.

"Restraint" – The use of mechanical or physical restraint, defined as follows:

"Mechanical restraint" – The use of a device that restricts a student's freedom of movement. The term does not include the use of devices prescribed or recommended by physical or behavioral health professionals when used for indicated purposes.

"Physical restraint" – The use of manual restraint techniques that involve significant physical force applied by a teacher or other staff member to restrict the movement of all or part of a student's body. The term does not include briefly holding a student in order to calm or comfort the student or physically escorting a student to a safe location.

"Positive behavior interventions and supports" – The use of behavioral interventions to prevent dangerous behaviors that may cause serious physical harm to the student and/or others.

"Seclusion" – The involuntary confinement of a student in a room or area alone and preventing the student from leaving the room or area. The term does not include time-out used as a behavior management technique intended to calm a student.

"Student" – A child with an individual education plan enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12 in a District school. The term does not include students in prekindergarten, students who reside in a residential care facility, or students participating in a Department of Juvenile Justice education program.

I. Use of Restraint in District Schools

School personnel may not use mechanical restraint. This does not apply to school resource officers, school safety officers, school guardians, or school security guards as described in Florida law, who may use mechanical restraint in the exercise of their powers and duties to restrict students in grades 6 through 12.

Authorized school personnel may use physical restraint only when all positive behavior interventions and supports have been exhausted. Physical restraint may be used only when there is an imminent risk of serious injury and must be discontinued as soon as the threat posed by a student's dangerous behavior has dissipated. Physical restraint may not be used to inflict pain to induce compliance. Physical restraint may be used only to protect the safety of students, school personnel, or others and may not be used for student discipline or to correct student noncompliance. The degree of force applied during physical restraint must be only that degree of force necessary to protect the student and/or others from imminent risk of serious injury.

All instances of restraint shall be documented and reported as required.

II. Procedures for Restraint in District Schools

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy and the requirements of applicable state and federal statutes and regulations. These procedures shall include but not be limited to the following:

- A. A system of positive behavior interventions and supports and identification of school personnel who are authorized and annually trained to use them;
- B. Restraint incident reporting;
- C. Restraint data collection, monitoring, analysis, and reporting;
- D. A plan for reducing the use of restraint, including activities, skills, and resources needed to do so;
- E. The development of crisis intervention plans; and
- F. Monitoring, documenting, and reporting the use of restraint at the classroom, building, and district level as outlined in Florida law.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED:

**1001.43, 1003.32, 1003.573,
1006.07, 1006.11, 1012.75, F.S.**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE(S)

6A-6.03312

**Calhoun County School Board
School Board Policy 5.341**

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