

CCS Board Policy 4630.01

A. Overview

Every effort should be made to prevent the need to restrain or place students in seclusion. However, the School recognizes that at times it may become necessary for employees to use reasonable restraints and/or seclusion when there is an imminent risk of harm to the student or others. Restraint or seclusion should not be used as a means of punishment or convenience. All behavioral interventions used must ensure the right of all students to be treated with dignity and respect.

A supportive school environment can greatly reduce, and in many cases eliminate, the need for restraint or seclusion. The School will use prevention, positive behavior intervention and support, and conflict de-escalation to eliminate or minimize the need for use of restraint or seclusion. School staff should promote and teach students appropriate behavior and should model appropriate behavior with their own conduct.

This Restraint and Seclusion Plan applies to all students, not only students with disabilities. Any behavioral intervention, including any physical restraint or seclusion, must be consistent with any applicable behavioral intervention plan (BIP), or individualized education program (IEP), as well as with this restraint and seclusion plan.

In the event that an SRO becomes involved in a restraint or seclusion situation, the officer, will follow their own police procedures and training for physical intervention. The school district is solely responsible for ensuring that it records and reports all incidents of restraint and seclusion on behalf of the police. In situations requiring an SRO to restrain or seclude a student, the district shall report this contact through its regular required state reporting mechanisms.

B. Restraint

1. What is and is not "restraint"

"Chemical restraint" means the administration of a drug or medication to manage a student's behavior or restrict a student's freedom of movement that is not a standard treatment and dosage for the student's medical or psychiatric condition.

"Mechanical restraint" means the use of (1) a mechanical device (2) a material or (3) equipment attached or adjacent to a student's body that the student cannot remove and that restricts the freedom of movement of all or part of the student's body or restricts normal access to the student's body. The term ***does not include*** (1) mechanical devices, (2) a material, or (3) equipment used as prescribed by a doctor.¹

1 Doctor means a licensed physician or other qualified health professional

“Physical restraint” means physical contact between a school employee and a student: (1) in which the student unwillingly participates; and (2) that involves the use of a manual hold to restrict freedom of movement of all or part of a student's body or to restrict normal access to the student's body. The term ***does not include***: (1) briefly holding a student without undue force in order to calm or comfort the student, or to prevent unsafe behavior, such as running into traffic or engaging in a physical altercation; (2) physical escort; or (3) physical contact intended to gently assist or prompt a student in performing a task or to guide or assist a student from one area to another.

2. Use of Restraint

The use of restraint with a student shall not be permitted except when the conditions described in this policy exist. The use of restraint with a student with a disability also is subject to any conditions in the student's IEP and any BIP established for the student in addition to the conditions established in this policy.

- Restraint shall only be used when a student's behavior presents an imminent risk of injury to the student or others.
- Restraint shall only be employed as a last resort after other methods of de-escalating a dangerous situation have been attempted without success.
- Except in emergency situations when trained staff are not available, restraint should only be employed by staff members who have been trained in the safe use of restraint.
- Restraint shall last only as long as is necessary for the student to regain behavioral stability and for the risk of injury to end.
- The degree of restriction employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident, the size and condition of the student, and the potential risks of injury to the student.
- Chemical restraints are not allowed.
- Mechanical restraints are not allowed. However, mechanical devices, materials, or equipment authorized by a doctor are excluded from the definition of “mechanical restraints” and are not limited by this Plan.
- Prone (face down on a horizontal surface) physical restraints are not authorized and must be avoided.

- Restraint shall never be used in a manner that restricts the child's breathing or intentionally harms the child.
- Every instance in which restraint is used must be carefully, continuously, and visually monitored to ensure the appropriateness of its use and safety of the student, other students, teachers, and other personnel.
- A verbal threat or verbally aggressive behavior does not itself constitute an imminent risk of injury and does not warrant the use of restraint.
- Destruction of or damage to property does not constitute an imminent risk of injury warranting the use of restraint unless in the course of such behavior a risk of injury to the student or others is created.
- Restraint may not be used when the student's known medical or physical condition would make the use of restraint dangerous for that student.
- Restraint must never be used as a means of punishment or to force compliance with staff commands.

C. Seclusion

1. What is and is not "seclusion"

"Seclusion" means the confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student physically is prevented from leaving. The term does not include a supervised time-out or scheduled break, as described in the student's individualized education program, in which an adult is continuously present in the room with the student.

A **"time-out"** in which a student is not alone or is not physically prevented from leaving is not "seclusion" under this Plan. A time-out occurs whenever access to reinforcement is withdrawn to modify behavior. Time-outs shall be both developmentally and behaviorally appropriate and shall be short in duration.

2. Use of Seclusion

The use of seclusion with a student shall not be permitted except when the conditions described in this policy exist. The use of seclusion with a student with a disability also is subject to any conditions in the student's IEP and any BIP established for the student in addition to the conditions established in this policy.

- Seclusion shall only be used when a student is displaying behavior that presents imminent risk to the student or others, and the threat could be diminished if the student was in a safe environment away from other students and staff.

- Seclusion shall only be employed as a last resort after other methods of de-escalating a dangerous situation have been attempted.
- Seclusion should only be used as long as necessary and shall be discontinued when the student is no longer an imminent threat to others.
- Seclusion should only be employed by staff members who have received training in the safe use of seclusion.
- Seclusion may be used only when the student can be transported safely to the seclusion environment by trained staff members using appropriate techniques based on training.
- A staff member must be able to see or hear signs of distress from a student in seclusion, and must be able to communicate with the student at all times.
- Seclusion may not be used when the student's known medical or physical condition would make the use of seclusion dangerous for that student.
- During the seclusion, students must be allowed to use the restroom upon request and be escorted to and from the restroom.
- During the seclusion, students must be provided water on request.
- Seclusion must never be used as a means of punishment or to force compliance with staff commands.

3. Seclusion Environments

All seclusion environments shall:

- be of reasonable size to accommodate the student and at least one (1) adult
- have adequate lighting and ventilation
- permit direct continuous visual and auditory monitoring of the student
- permit automatic release of any locking device with any building-wide alarm, such as fire, tornado, lockdown, or other emergency
- if locked, be released as soon as student is no longer an imminent danger to self or others
- meet current fire, health and safety codes.