

RESTRAINT, SECLUSION AND THE USE OF REASONABLE PHYSICAL FORCE

The Board of Education believes that maintaining an orderly, safe environment is conducive to learning and is an appropriate expectation of all staff members within the district. Within the parameters of applicable law and Board policy, the Board recognizes that there are times when it becomes necessary for staff to use physical restraint and seclusion to maintain a safe environment for students.

For Plainfield Public Schools, physical restraint is defined as any personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the free movement of a person's arms, hands, legs, head or body. The term *does not* include:

- A. Briefly holding a person in order to calm or comfort the person;
- B. Restraint involving the minimum contact necessary to safely escort a person from one area to another;
- C. Medication devices including supports prescribed by healthcare provider to achieve proper body position or balance.
- D. Helmets or other protective gear used to protect a person from injuries due to a fall;
- E. Helmets, mitts and similar devices used to prevent self injury when the device is part of a documented treatment plan or individualized education program and is the least restrictive means available to prevent such self injury.

Seclusion is defined as the confinement of a person in a room, with staff supervision, in a manner that prevents the person from leaving. The term *does not* include confinement in which the student is physically able to leave the area of confinement including, but not limited to in-school suspension and time-out.

Restraint and Seclusion of "Persons at Risk"

"Persons at Risk" include students who meet eligibility criteria for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who receive special education from the Board of Education or are being evaluated for eligibility for special education pursuant to statute and awaiting determination. Students who are persons at risk may not be physically restrained or placed in seclusion except as specified in the administrative regulations of this policy.

Use of Reasonable Physical Force

In addition to the special procedures regarding restraint of students who are persons at risk, nothing in this policy or the administrative regulations implementing this policy shall be interpreted to supersede the use of reasonable physical force including seclusion by staff upon any student under the following circumstances:

- A. Protect himself/herself or others from immediate physical injury.
- B. Obtain possession of a dangerous instrument or controlled substance, upon or within the control of such student.
- C. Protect property from physical damage.

D. Restrain such student or remove such student to another area, to maintain order.

Corporal punishment is strictly prohibited.

Training of School Personnel in the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Only school personnel who have received training in physical management, physical restraint and seclusion procedures may restrain or seclude a student who is a person at risk. Such training shall include, but not be limited to: verbal defusing or de-escalation; prevention strategies; types of physical restraint; the differences between permissible physical restraint and pain compliance techniques; monitoring to prevent harm to a person physically restrained or in seclusion and recording or reporting procedures on the use of restraints and seclusion.

Administrative Regulations

The Superintendent of Schools will ensure that administrative regulation are developed and implemented establishing the procedures for the use of physical restraint and seclusion upon students.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes:
10-76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services.
10-220 Duties of boards of education
46a-150 through 46a-154 Use of restraint and seclusion
53a-18 Use of reasonable physical force
Regulations Connecticut State Agencies 10-76b-1 to 11

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