

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Restraint & Seclusion Policy, using Restorative Justice Practices

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to guide the school's use of positive behavior intervention and supports, the limited use of restraint, and using restorative justice practices as applicable.

Every effort should be made to prevent the need for the use of restraint and for the use of seclusion. The use of a non-aversive effective behavioral system such as Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) shall be used to create a learning environment that promotes the use of evidence-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all students.

Restraint or seclusion shall not occur, except when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others, and shall occur only in a manner that protects the safety of all children and adults at school. Every use of restraint or seclusion shall be documented and reported in accordance with the requirements set forth herein.

Restorative Justice promotes a positive, orderly school environment. Students and all members of the school learn and practice self-discipline, empathy, and accountability. The School may use school-based restorative justice to offer a more sustainable, equitable, and respectful alternative to dealing with misbehavior. It shall be used as a proactive strategy to create a school culture of connectivity and care where students, teachers, and other members of the school community can thrive, and help students grow and mature.

II. Access to this Policy:

This policy shall be kept at the school and be available to parents at all reasonable times. The policy shall be reviewed and updated regularly as appropriate.

III. Adherence:

Practices that do not adhere to the standards and requirements set forth in this policy are prohibited, and physical restraint and seclusion shall not occur, except when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others. The school shall utilize physical restraint and seclusion only in a manner that protects the safety of all children and adults at school.

IV. Definitions:

Aversive behavioral interventions - means an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort to a student for the purpose of eliminating or reducing maladaptive behaviors, including interventions such as: application of noxious, painful and/or intrusive stimuli, including any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray, inhalant or tastes.

Chemical Restraint - means a drug or medication used to control a student's behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not:

- A. Prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State law, for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; and
- B. Administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State Law.

De-escalation techniques – are strategically employed verbal or non-verbal interventions used to reduce the intensity of threatening behavior before a crisis situation occurs.

Functional Behavior Assessment – is a collaborative problem-solving process that is used to describe the “function” or purpose that is served by a student's behavior. Understanding the “function” that an impeding behavior serves for the student assists directly in designing educational programs and developing behavior plans with a high likelihood of success.

Mechanical Restraint – means:

- A. Any method of restricting a student's freedom of movement, physical activity, or normal use of the student's body, using an appliance or device manufactured for this purpose; and
- B. Does not mean devices used by trained school personnel, or used by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed, including:
 - 1. Restraints for medical immobilization;
 - 2. Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; or
 - 3. Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

Parent – means:

- A. A biological or adoptive parent;

- B. A guardian generally authorized to act as the child’s parent, or authorized to make decisions for the child (but not the state if the child is a ward of the state);
- C. An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare;
- D. A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with rule 3301-51-05(E) of the Administrative Code; or
- E. Any person identified in a judicial decree or order as the parent of a child or the person with authority to make educational decisions on behalf of a child.

Physical Escort – means the temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, waist, hip, or back for the purpose of inducing a student to move to a safe location.

Physical Restraint – means the use of physical contact that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely. Such term does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint. Physical restraint does not include brief, but necessary physical contact for the following or similar purposes:

- to break up a fight;
- to knock a weapon away from a student’s possession;
- to calm or comfort;
- to assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist the contact; or
- to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student’s immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car).

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support – means:

- A. A school-wide systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data driven decision making to improve school climate and culture in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes, and increase learning for all students, and
- B. Encompasses a wide range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to reinforce desired behaviors, diminish reoccurrences of challenging behaviors and teach appropriate behavior to students.

Positive Behavior Support Plan – means the design, implementation, and evaluation of individual or group instructional and environmental modifications, including programs of

behavioral instruction, to produce significant improvements in behavior through skill acquisition and the reduction of problematic behavior.

Prone Restraint – means physical or mechanical restraint while the student is in the face down position.

Seclusion – means the involuntary isolation of a student in a room, enclosure, or space from which the student is prevented from leaving by physical restraint or by a closed door or other physical barrier.

Student – means a child or adult aged three to twenty-one enrolled in a school.

Student personnel – means teachers, principals, counselors, social workers, school resource officers, teacher’s aides, psychologists, or other school staff who interact directly with students.

Timeout – means a behavioral intervention in which a student, for a limited and specified time, is separated from the class within the classroom or in a non-locked setting for the purpose of self-regulating and controlling his or her own behavior. In a timeout, the student is not physically restrained or prevented from leaving the area by physical barriers.

Restorative Justice – is a framework, a set of values and principles, used to guide responses to misbehavior, conflict or harm. The foundational values are respect, responsibility, and relationship. The premise of restorative justice is that crime or misbehavior is a violation of people and relationships rather than a violation of a law or a rule (Zehr, 1990).

V. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports:

- A. Every student deserves to be treated with dignity, be free from abuse, and treated as a unique individual with individual needs, strengths, and circumstances. The school shall implement an evidence-based school wide system or framework of positive behavioral interventions and supports.
- B. Education environments shall be structured to greatly reduce, and in most cases eliminate, the need to use restraint or seclusion. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) creates structure to the environment using a non-aversive effective behavioral system. It is a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.
- C. The PBIS prevention-oriented framework or approach applies to all students, all staff, and all settings. Research supports the conclusion that PBIS, when integrated with effective academic instruction, provides the support students need to become actively engaged in their own learning and academic success.
- D. Components of a system of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports include:

1. Trained school staff to identify conditions such as:
 - a. Where, under what conditions, with whom and why specific inappropriate behavior may occur.
 - b. Preventative assessments should include:
 - i. A review of existing data,
 - ii. Interviews with parents, family members and students and
 - iii. Examination of previous and existing behavioral intervention plans.
 - c. With the analysis of these data the school shall develop and implement preventative behavioral interventions and teach appropriate behavior.
 - i. Modify the environmental factors that escalate the inappropriate behavior.
 - ii. Support the attainment of appropriate behavior.
 - iii. Use verbal de-escalation to defuse potentially violent dangerous behavior.
2. The school shall establish a system that will support students' efforts to manage their own behavior; implement instructing techniques in how to self-manage behavior, decrease the development of new problem behaviors; prevent worsening of existing problem behaviors; redesign learning/teaching environments to eliminate triggers and maintainers of problem behaviors. The system should include family involvement as an integral part of the system. .

VI. Prohibited Practices:

The following are prohibited under all circumstances, including emergency safety situations:

- A. Prone restraint as defined in Executive Order 2009-13S;
- B. Corporal punishment;
- C. Child endangerment as defined in R.C. 2919.22;
- D. Seclusion or restraint of preschool students in violation of the provisions of Ohio Adm. Code Rule 3301-37-10(D);

- E. The deprivation of basic needs;
- F. Restraint that unduly risks serious harm or needless pain to the student, including the intentional, knowing, or reckless use of any of the following techniques:
 - 1. Using any method that is capable of causing loss of consciousness or harm to the neck or restricting respiration in any way,
 - 2. Pinning down with knees to torso, head and/or neck,
 - 3. Using pressure points, pain compliance and joint manipulation techniques,
 - 4. Dragging or lifting of the student by the hair or ear or by any type of mechanical restraint,
 - 5. Using other students or untrained staff to assist with the hold or restraint, or
 - 6. Securing a student to another student or to a fixed object;
- G. Mechanical or chemical restraints (which does not include devices used by trained school personnel, or by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed, or medication administered as prescribed by a licensed physician);
- H. Aversive behavioral interventions; or
- I. Seclusion of students in a locked room.
- J. Use of seclusion in any environment that does not meet the criteria as listed in section VII of this policy.

VII. Restraint

- A. The use of prone restraint, physical restraint that obstructs the airway of a student, or any physical restraint that impacts a student's primary mode of communication is prohibited.
- B. Physical restraint may be used only when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe and effective intervention is possible, and only in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate. School personnel may use physical restraint only in accordance with local policy and the requirements of this policy and shall be discontinued as soon as imminent danger of serious physical harm to self or other has dissipated.
- C. If physical restraint is used, staff must:

1. Implement in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate;
 2. Ensure safety of other students and protect the dignity and respect of the student involved. Combine use with other approaches (non-physical approaches are preferred) that will diminish the need for physical intervention in the future.
 3. Use the least amount of force necessary, for the least amount of time necessary;
 4. Be appropriately-trained to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student;
 5. Continually observe the student in restraint for indications of physical or mental distress and seek immediate medical assistance if there is a concern;
 6. Contact appropriate emergency entities according to district crisis policy if at any point the staff assesses that the intervention is insufficient to maintain safety of all involved;
 7. Use verbal strategies and research based de-escalation techniques in an effort to help the student regain control;
 8. Remove the student from physical restraint immediately when the immediate risk of physical harm to self or others has dissipated and assess the student for injury or psychological distress and monitored as needed following the incident;
 9. Conduct a de-briefing including all involved staff to evaluate the trigger for the incident, staff response, and methods to address the student's behavioral needs; and
 10. Complete all required reports and document staff's observations of the student.
- D. If a student repeatedly engages in dangerous behavior that leads to instances of restraint and/or seclusion, the school shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment to identify the student's needs and more effective ways of addressing those needs. If necessary, this functional behavioral assessment should be followed by a behavioral intervention plan that incorporates appropriate positive behavioral interventions.

VIII. Seclusion

- A. Seclusion may be used only when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe and effective intervention is possible. Seclusion shall never be used as a punishment or to force compliance. Seclusion should only be used in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate. School personnel may use seclusion only in accordance with local policy and the requirements of this policy.
- B. Seclusion is a last resort safety intervention that provides an opportunity for the student to regain self-control.
- C. A room or area used for seclusion must:
 - 1. provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, clear visibility and the safety of the student; and
 - 2. not be locked.
- D. Seclusion shall not be used:
 - 1. for the convenience of staff;
 - 2. as a substitute for an educational program;
 - 3. as a form of discipline/punishment;
 - 4. as a substitute for less restrictive alternatives;
 - 5. as a substitute for inadequate staffing;
 - 6. as a substitute for staff training in positive behavior supports and crisis prevention and intervention; or
 - 7. as a means to coerce, retaliate, or in a manner that endangers a student.
- E. If seclusion is used, staff must:
 - 1. Implement in a manner that is age and developmentally appropriate;
 - 2. Ensure the safety of other students and protect the dignity and respect of the student involved;
 - 3. Be appropriately trained to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student;
 - 4. Continually observe the student in seclusion for indications of physical or mental distress and seek immediate medical assistance if there is a concern and use the least amount of time necessary;

5. Use verbal strategies and research based de-escalation techniques in an effort to help the student regain control as quickly as possible;
 6. Remove the student when the immediate risk of physical harm to self or others has dissipated. The Student shall be assessed for injury or psychological distress and monitored as needed following the incident;
 7. Conduct a de-briefing including all involved staff to evaluate the trigger for the incident, staff response, and methods to address the student's behavioral needs; and
 8. Complete all required reports and document their observation of the student.
 9. If at any point the staff assesses that the intervention is insufficient to maintain safety of all involved, emergency personnel will be contacted.
- F. If a student repeatedly engages in dangerous behavior that leads to instances of restraint and/or seclusion, the school shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment to identify the student's needs and more effective ways of addressing those needs. If necessary, this functional behavioral assessment should be followed by a behavioral intervention plan that incorporates appropriate positive behavioral interventions. Behavioral Interventions should address the underlying cause or purpose of the dangerous behavior that results in the use of restraint or seclusion

IX. Restorative Justice Practices

The school may utilize restorative justice processes, including but not limited to, peer assists, justice panel, peer mediation, peer mentoring, and circles to help students develop independence and a sense of communal responsibility. The school believes conversation and community help students develop strong decision making skills so that they avoid choosing long term destructive behaviors that lead to poor personal outcomes and academic failures.

X. Training and Professional Development

The school shall have a plan regarding the training of its staff in accordance with this policy, including appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusion, and must maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided and lists of participants in each training. Training shall include the following components:

- A. All student personnel shall be trained annually on the requirements of this policy, Ohio Adm. Code 3301-35-15, and the district's policies and procedures regarding restraint and seclusion.

- B. The school shall ensure that an adequate number of personnel are trained in crisis management and de-escalation techniques, and that their training is kept current in accordance with the requirements of the provider of the training.

XI. Required Data and Reporting

Each use of seclusion or restraint shall be documented in writing and reported to the building administration immediately; reported to the parent immediately; and documented in a written report. A copy of the written report shall be made available to the parent or guardian within 24 hours, and the school shall maintain a copy of the report in the student's file. These reports are educational records subject to the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act, and a school is prohibited from releasing any personally identifiable information to anyone other than the parent, in accordance with the requirements of that Act.

Every school shall report information concerning its use of restraint and seclusion annually to the Ohio Department of Education as requested by the Ohio Department of Education.

XII. Monitoring and Complaint Processes

The school shall make its records concerning restraint and seclusion available to staff from the Ohio Department of Education upon request.

A. School Monitoring and Complaint Procedures

To ensure that practices are implemented as set forth in this policy, the school shall:

1. Provide a procedure for a parent to present written complaints to the school leader to initiate a complaint investigation by the school regarding an incident of restraint or seclusion; and
2. Respond to the parent's complaint in writing within thirty (30) days of the filing of a complaint regarding an incident of restraint or seclusion.

B. Availability of IDEA Complaint Process to Students with Disabilities

The parent of a student with a disability may choose to file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, in accordance with the complaint procedures available concerning students with disabilities. In accordance with the consent order entered in *Doe v. State of Ohio*, complaints alleging the improper use of restraint or seclusion on a student with a disability will be investigated by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, if the complaint otherwise falls within the procedures concerning state complaints under IDEA as set forth in Ohio Adm. Code Rule 3301-51-05(K)(4)-(6). Complaints alleging injuries to a student with a

disability or the use of restraints or seclusion shall not be deemed insufficient on the face of the complaint if they are framed within the context of IDEA, including:

- A pattern of challenging behaviors that are related to the student's disability;
- Whether the student has had or should have had a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and a positive behavior support plan (PBSP);
- Whether the FBA and PBSP are appropriate;
- Whether the student's behavior and interventions are addressed or should have been addressed in the IEP; and
- Whether staff has been sufficiently trained in de-escalation and restraint techniques.