

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

USE OF TIME OUT, SECLUSION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

5.341*+

- I. The District shall implement behavioral management interventions for disruptive students to prevent and reduce significant disruptive behavior and to provide for the physical safety and security of students and staff when students pose a threat to themselves and/or others. The focus shall be on the use of the least restrictive but effective intervention(s) for each student.

II. Time Out

Time out is a procedure in which access to reinforcement is removed or reduced for a designated time.

- A. *Nonexclusion time out* is the least restrictive form of time out. The student is allowed to observe the classroom activity but not participate.
- B. *Exclusion time out* excludes the student from participation in and observation of classroom activities. The student remains in the classroom but cannot observe or participate in ongoing activities.

III. Seclusion

~~Seclusion or isolation removes the student from the classroom for a predetermined period of time. The student is placed in a nonstimulating room away from the classroom. The student must be observed continuously by trained personnel.~~

As of July 1, 2021 Florida Statute 1003.573 prohibits the use of seclusion by school personnel.

IV. Physical Restraint

- A. *Manual physical restraint* is the use of physical restraint techniques that involve physical force to restrict free movement of all or part of a student's body. It is a method to prevent a student from harming himself/herself or others.
- B. Physical restraint ~~should only be used in an emergency situation when an immediate and significant threat to the student or others exists.~~ may only be used after all positive behavior interventions and supports are exhausted by authorized school personnel, and there is an imminent risk of serious injury to the student or others.

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C. Physical restraint may only be implemented by trained, qualified school personnel.

D. The use of Mechanical Restraints are prohibited by Santa Rosa County School District Employees. ~~Techniques or devices such as straightjackets, zip ties, handcuffs, or tie downs may not be used in ways that may obstruct or restrict breathing or blood flow or that place a student in a facedown position with the student's hands restrained behind the student's back.~~ Restraint techniques may not be used to inflict pain to induce compliance.

V. Documentation and Reporting

All instances of time-out ~~seclusion~~ and restraint shall be documented and reported as required.

VI. Notice, Monitoring and Analysis

A. At the beginning of each school year, the district shall post its policies and procedures on positive behavior interventions and supports as adopted by the school district.

B. The use of manual physical restraint ~~or seclusion~~ shall be monitored at the classroom, school and District levels.

C. The use of the behavior interventions, the appropriateness of use and the effectiveness of the interventions shall be analyzed.

D. A crisis plan must be created by the crisis intervention team for a student who is restrained twice in a semester.

VII. Prohibitions

School personnel shall not

A. Use a mechanical restraint ~~or a manual physical restraint that restricts a student's breathing or~~

B. Use a manual physical restraint that restricts a student's breathing ~~or~~

~~C. Close, lock or physically block a student in a room that is unlit or that does not meet the rules of the State Fire Marshall for a seclusion time-out room.~~

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VIII. Training

- A. The District shall provide initial training for designated personnel in the use of time out, ~~seclusion~~ and physical restraint.
- B. Refresher training shall be conducted annually.
- C. Personnel who have been trained in manual restraint techniques in positions outside of the School District shall receive training in District methods.

IX. Procedures

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy and related statutes. Procedures shall include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Incident reporting;
- B. Data collection;
- C. Monitoring and analysis;
- D. Plan for reducing the use of restraint and ~~seclusion~~;
- E. Identification of staff to be trained; and
- F. Training components.

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

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FORMERLY: NEW