

CHAPTER 5.00 – STUDENTS

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

5.343*+

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.

(1) Time Out

- (a) *Time out* is a procedure in which access to reinforcement is removed or reduced for a designated time.
- (b) Nonexclusion *time out* is the least restrictive form of time out. The student is allowed to observe the classroom activity but not participate.
- (c) *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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

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(b) Physical restraint should only be used in an emergency situation when an immediate and significant threat to the student or others exists.

(c) Physical restraint may only be implemented by trained, qualified school personnel.

(4) Documentation and Reporting

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

(5) Monitoring and Analysis

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

(b) The use of the behavior interventions, the appropriateness of use and the effectiveness of the interventions shall be analyzed.

(6) Prohibitions

School personnel shall not

(a) Use a mechanical restraint or a manual physical restraint that restricts a student's breathing or

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- (b) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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;

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- (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.

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