

RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION OF STUDENTS

Physical restraint and seclusion may only be used by Lancaster County School Board staff for the purpose of behavioral intervention in accordance with this policy and the Virginia Board of Education Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia. The School Board encourages the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

The superintendent is responsible for developing procedures to address the requirements of the Board of Education Regulations. Those procedures shall include:

- examples of the positive behavioral interventions and support strategies consistent with the student's rights to be treated with dignity and to be free from abuse that the school division uses to address student behavior, including the appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusions;
- a description of initial and advanced training for school personnel that addresses appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusion and the proper use of restraint and seclusion;
- a statement of the circumstances in which physical restraint and seclusion may be employed, which shall be no less restrictive than that set forth in 8 VAC 20-750-40 and 8 VAC 20-750-50;
- provisions addressing the
 - notification of parents regarding incidents of physical restraint or seclusion, including the manner of such notification;
 - documentation of the use of physical restraint and seclusion; continuous visual monitoring of the use of any physical restraint or seclusion to ensure the appropriateness of such use and the safety of the student being physically restrained or secluded, other students, school personnel, and others. These provisions shall include exceptions for emergency situations in which securing visual monitoring before implementing the physical restraint or seclusion would, in the reasonable judgment of the school personnel implementing the physical restraint or seclusion, result in serious physical harm or injury to persons;
 - securing of any room in which a student is placed in seclusion. These provisions shall ensure that any seclusion room or area meet specifications for size and viewing panels that ensure the student's safety at all times, including during a fire or other emergency; and
 - the appropriate use and duration of seclusion based on the age and development of the student.

The School Board reviews this policy at least annually and updates it as appropriate. The superintendent reviews the procedures at least annually and updates as appropriate.

Adopted: November 8, 2010

Revised: October 13, 2020

Revised: August 8, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-16, 22.1-78, 22.1-279.1, 22.1-279.1:1.

8 VAC 20-750-40

8 VAC 20-750-50.

8 VAC 20-750-70.

Cross Refs.: BF Board Policy Manual
CH Policy Implementation
EB School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan
IGBA Programs for Students with Disabilities
JFC Student Conduct
JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct
JGA Corporal Punishment
JGDA Disciplining Students with Disabilities
JGDB Discipline of Students with Disabilities for Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury
KNAJ Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities