

Restraint & Seclusion in South Carolina

RESTRAINT

Physical restraint is a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move the torso, arms, legs, or head freely.

Does not include ... temporarily holding an individual to assist participation in educational or daily living activities, as developmentally appropriate; escorting techniques (e.g., hand on back or elbow) to assist movement from one location to another.



Mechanical restraint is the use of devices as a means of restricting a student's freedom of movement to control student behavior.

Does not include ... appropriate use of adaptive equipment or products for positioning and other therapeutic purposes, provided they are used in accordance with manufacturer's recommended usage.



Chemical restraint is defined as a drug or medication used to control behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not (a) prescribed by a licensed physician for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition and (b) administered as prescribed by the licensed physician.

The use of mechanical and chemical restraints in public school settings is prohibited.



SECLUSION

Seclusion is defined as the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. School faculty/staff will continuously hold the door lever (handle) and maintain visual and audible surveillance.

Restraint & Seclusion Shall **NEVER**:

- be used as a substitute for other educational support or intended to manage behaviors that do not pose an imminent risk of serious, physical harm to self or others, such as noncompliance, property destruction, or fleeing from staff/assigned area (unless there is imminent risk of injury related to that flight);
- be used as a response to profanity and/or verbal threats, unless the student demonstrates imminent/immediate means and capacity to carry out the threat;
- include prone restraints (with the student face down on his/her stomach);
- include supine restraints (with student face up on one's back);
- entail any maneuver that places pressure or weight on the chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, neck, or throat.



Restraint & Seclusion Shall **ONLY**:

- be used when the student's actions pose a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others and the student can cause such harm;
- be used as a last resort when less restrictive measures have not effectively de-escalated the risk of injury;
- last as long as necessary to resolve the actual risk of danger or harm;
- be reasonable and proportionate to the risk of harm to self or others and apply only the level of restriction/force necessary to manage such risk;
- be used by staff certified by an LEA approved crisis intervention training program.



DOCUMENTATION



- Every use of restraint and seclusion must be documented.
- Parents should be notified as soon as possible.
- SCDE advises staff debriefing occur the day of incident, but no later than 3 school days after incident.

- Consideration to visit or revisit student's individual plan to receive appropriate educational assessments which may include functional-based assessments, multitiered system of supports, and/or behavioral intervention plan.
- See SCDE Guidelines for more details.