

BURLINGTON COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION



DISTRICT POLICY/REGULATION 5561

The Board of Education strives to provide a safe, caring atmosphere that supports all learners in the least restrictive environment. On occasion, during an emergency, a situation may arise making it necessary to temporarily restrain a student. An emergency is defined as a situation in which the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others or imminent, serious property destruction.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1, no person employed or contracted to work in a school district or an educational services commission/unit, whether public or private, shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student attending such school or institution. However, any such person may, within the scope of his/her employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary: to quell a disturbance, threatening physical injury to others; to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student, for the purpose of self-defense; and for the protection of persons or property. Any such acts, as above, shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment within the meaning and intendment of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1.

“Physical restraint” means the use of a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move all or a portion of his or her body. Physical restraint shall include the use of specific, planned techniques and shall only be used with reasonable limitations by school staff members, members of the educational services commission/unit or contracted staff working within the district who receive training in the use of physical restraint. Classroom and security interventions should be implemented, when possible, prior to the use of any physical restraint. The use of physical restraint shall be limited to only those circumstances and situations where other interventions are not possible or have been unsuccessful. The District does not approve the restraint of students in the prone position. See Policy/Regulation 5561.

A student shall be released from physical restraint immediately upon a determination by the school staff member administering the restraint that the student is no longer in imminent danger of causing harm to him/herself, others, or imminent property destruction. The student shall be examined by the school nurse after any physical restraint.

The Principal or designee will notify the parent/legal guardian in the event an emergency existed and physical restraint was used on their child by the end of the school day. Written report of the incident of physical restraint shall be provided within 48 hours of the occurrence of the incident.

“Seclusion technique” means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving, but does not include a timeout. “Timeout” means a behavior management technique that involves the monitored separation of a student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.

Each incident in which a seclusion technique is used is carefully and continuously monitored to ensure that it is used in accordance with established procedures set forth in board policy developed in conjunction with the entity that trains staff in safe techniques for the physical restraint, in order to protect the safety of the child, and others. Inclusion of positive behavior supports in student's behavior intervention plans shall be used to attempt to minimize the use of seclusion techniques.