

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION TECHNIQUES FOR STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES

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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 engaged in school or educational instruction, 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 intent of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1.

"Physical restraint" means holding a student or otherwise restricting his/her movements. Physical restraint shall include the use of specific, planned techniques and shall only be used with reasonable limitations by school staff members who shall 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.

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 Principal or designee will notify the parent/legal guardian in the event an emergency existed and physical restraint was used on their child. The student shall be examined by the school nurse after any physical restraint.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1

Adopted: 24 July 2012

Reviewed:

