

Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

Purpose

This policy sets forth the parameters for the use of restraint, isolation and other reasonable force as necessary to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Scope

This policy applies to the Superintendent, administrators, district employees, volunteers, students, and parents and guardians.

Policy

1. The Board of Directors authorizes the district to maintain a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will remain free from unreasonable restraint, restraint devices, isolation, and other uses of physical force. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.
2. This policy is intended to address district students. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of restraint or other reasonable force as necessary with adults or other youth from outside the district as allowed by law.
3. Use of restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force may be used on any student when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an “imminent likelihood of serious harm” as defined by RCW 70.96B.010 and Chapter 392-172A WAC, and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or district property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. The restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.
4. The Superintendent or designee will develop procedures to implement this policy, including review, reporting and parent/guardian notification of incidents involving restraint or isolation as required by law. Additionally, the Superintendent will annually report to the Board on incidents involving the use of force.

Related Procedures

3246P1-Restraint, Isolation, and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

2161P1-Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

Policy Cross References

2161-Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

2162-Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Policy Legal References

- RCW 9A.16.020 – Use of force — When lawful
- RCW 9A.16.100 – Use of force on children — Policy — Actions presumed unreasonable
- RCW 28A.150.300 – Corporal Punishment Prohibited – Adoption of policy
- RCW 28A.155.210 – Use of restraint or isolation – Requirements for procedures to notify parent or guardian
- RCW 28A.600.485 – [as amended by SHB 1240]
- RCW 70.96B.010 – Definitions
- Chapter 392-172A WAC – Rules for the provision of special education
- WAC 392-400-235 Discipline — Conditions and limitations

Management Resources

- Policy & Legal News*, March 2016 – Two major policy revisions address restraint and isolation
- Policy & Legal News*, July 2015 – Policy Alert
- Policy & Legal News*, December 2013 – New policy on isolation and restraint of students with IEPs and Section 504 plans
- Policy & Legal News*, July 2013 – Use of Reasonable Force policy retitled, revised to include new reporting requirement pursuant to ESSB 1688
- Policy News*, December 2008 – Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	May 21, 2014
Revised	September 16, 2015
Revised	May 18, 2016
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