

**SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE  
TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
EMPLOYMENT POLICY**

School Violence and Restrictive Behavioral Intervention Policy  
Policy # 5144.1

**PURPOSE**

**Through the adoption of this policy, the Special Administrative Board expects to:**

1. Promote safety and prevent harm to students, school personnel and visitors in the School District.
2. Foster a climate of dignity and respect in the use of discipline and behavior-management techniques
3. Provide school personnel with clear guidelines about the use of seclusion, isolation, and restraint in response to emergency situations.
4. Promote the use of non-aversive, behavioral interventions.

The district will treat all students with dignity and provide a safe learning environment for students and a safe working environment for district personnel. Seclusion and restraint interventions will be used only when necessary and in accordance with this policy, and they will never be used as a form of punishment or for the convenience of district personnel. The restrictions in this policy apply to the district and any other provider of educational or related services to the student on behalf of the district.

The SLPS District has the authority [\[1\]](#) to manage student conduct by promoting good order and implementing disciplinary practices in a manner which is consistent with state law. School officials are authorized to hold students accountable for misconduct in school, on school property, during school-sponsored activities and for conduct away from school or in non-school activities which affect school discipline. The board directs the superintendent or designee to train and direct district personnel to use with fidelity measures to proactively address student behaviors, such as positive behavior support techniques, and to identify students with disabilities who may need behavior intervention plans.

School board members, administrators and district personnel will not retaliate against any person for reporting a violation of this policy or failure to follow state law regarding seclusion and restraint. Likewise, retaliation is prohibited against any person for providing information regarding a violation of law regulating seclusion and restraint.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Aversive Behavioral Interventions:** An intervention that is intended to inflict pain or discomfort upon a student for the purpose of eliminating or reducing dangerous behaviors.

**Chemical Restraint:** The administration of a drug or medication to manage a student's behavior that is **NOT** a standard treatment and dosage for the student's medical condition.

**Corporal Punishment:** As relates to this policy, Corporal Punishment is the use of or threat of physical force for the purposes of discipline or punishment. Furthermore, the use of physical restraint by trained staff shall not be considered as Corporal Punishment.

**Isolation:** The confinement of a student alone in an enclosed space without locking hardware. Isolation does not include supervised in-school suspension, detention or time-out used as a disciplinary consequence in accordance to the District's student discipline code.

**Mechanical Restraint:** The use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. This term shall not include devices implemented by trained personnel or used by a student with a prescription for such devices from an appropriate medical or related service professional that are used for specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as the following:

1. Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
2. Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
3. Restraints for medical immobilization; or
4. Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk.

**Physical Escort:** The temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out or eloping to walk to a safe location.

**Physical Restraint:** The use of person to person physical contact to restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body. It does not include briefly holding a student without undue force for instructional or other purposes, briefly holding a student to calm the student, taking a student's hand to transport him or her for safety purposes, physical escort, or intervening in a fight.

**Prone Restraint:** Using mechanical restraint or physical restraint or both to restrict a student's movement while the student is lying with the student's front or face downward.

**Seclusion:** The confinement of a student alone in an enclosed space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. The term Seclusion shall not include:

1. A timeout;
2. In-school suspension;
3. Detention; or

4. Other appropriate disciplinary measures.

**Time-Out:** A behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.

**Mechanical, Physical or Prone Restraint Limitations:**

District personnel are prohibited from using any mechanical, physical or prone restraint technique that:

1. Obstructs views of the student's face;
2. Obstructs the student's respiratory airway, impairs the student's breathing or respiratory capacity, or restricts the movement required for normal breathing to cause positional or postural asphyxia;
3. Places pressure or weight on or causes the compression of the student's chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, abdomen or genitals;
4. Obstructs the student's circulation of blood;
5. Involves pushing on or into the student's mouth, nose, eyes or any part of the face or involves covering the face or body with anything including, but not limited to, soft objects such as pillows, blankets or washcloths;
6. Endangers the student's life or significantly exacerbates the student's medical condition;
7. Is purposely designed to inflict pain; or
8. Restricts the student from communicating. If an employee physically restrains a student who uses sign language or an augmentative mode of communication as the student's primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have their hands free of restraint for brief periods unless district personnel determine that such freedom appears likely to result in harm to self or others.

**A. SLPS BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY – CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

SLPS District employees and volunteers are prohibited from administering corporal punishment to students attending the SLPS schools, and from causing such punishment to be administered

**B. SLPS BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY – PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

District personnel will reserve the use of restraint for situations or conditions in which there is imminent danger of physical harm to self or others. Any student placed in restraint shall be removed from such

restraint as soon as district personnel determine that the student is no longer an imminent danger to self or others. Trained staff may use only physical restraint when necessary to <sup>[2]</sup>:

1. Prevent the imminent physical danger of a student hurting himself/herself.
2. To prevent or stop imminent physical danger to other students.
3. To prevent or stop imminent physical danger to staff.

**Physical Restraint will:**

1. Only be used for as long as necessary to resolve the imminent risk of danger or harm that warranted the use of physical restraint.
2. Be no greater than the degree of force necessary.
3. Not place pressure or weight on the chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back neck or throat that restricts breathing or circulation.
4. Not hyperextend any body part, put or keep the student off balance.
5. Be conducted with at least one other additional adult present and in line of sight, unless other school personnel are not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency situation.

Physical restraint which is administered in accordance with this section shall not be deemed corporal punishment as defined in Section A. above. In the above cases physical restraint is justified, it should be applied without anger and as a restraint rather than as retaliation.

Trained staff members are permitted to use only the minimum amount of restraint reasonably necessary to accomplish the preventive measures required.

**C. USE OF SECLUSION AND ISOLATION**

**Seclusion:** The St. Louis Public Schools does not practice seclusion as defined in this policy to modify student behavior.

**Isolation:** Isolation shall only be used:

1. In an emergency situation in which a student's behavior poses a serious threat of imminent physical harm to self or others, or
2. When less restrictive measures have not de-escalated the situation.

Isolation shall never be used as a form of punishment or for the convenience of District personnel.

A student in isolation must be monitored by District personnel who are in close proximity and able to see and hear the student at all times. The total time in isolation is to be reasonable, calculated based on the age of the student and the circumstances and is not to exceed 10 minutes without a reassessment of the situation and consultation with administrative staff, unless otherwise specified in the IEP, Section 504 plan or other plan to address a student's behavior.

The space in which the student is isolated shall be in a normal size classroom within the school or approved contractor setting with standard lighting, ventilation, heating, cooling and ceiling height meeting all applicable building codes that is free of objects that could cause harm to the student.

**D. MECHANICAL RESTRAINT**

The St. Louis Public School District does not practice the use of mechanical restraints as defined in this policy to modify student behavior.

The use of vehicle safety restraints shall be used according to state and federal regulations.

Mechanical restraints employed by law enforcement officers in school settings should be used in accordance with appropriate professional standards and applicable policies.

**E. CHEMICAL RESTRAINT**

The St. Louis Public School District does not practice the use of chemical restraints as defined in this policy to modify student behavior.

**F. USE OF TIME-OUT**

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit the use of time-out as defined in this policy.

**G. PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION**

The district will attempt to notify the parents/guardians of the student as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the end of the school day on which seclusion or restraint occurred. Notification will be oral or electronic and will include a statement indicating that the district or district contractor will provide the parents/guardians a copy of the report required by law and this policy within five school days.

**H. REPORTING/DEBRIEFING**

District personnel shall monitor the use of student seclusion or restraint and shall complete a report for each incident that minimally contains the following:

1. The date, time of day, location, duration and description of the incident and interventions;
2. Any event leading to the incident and the reason for using seclusion or restraint;
3. A description of the methods of seclusion or restraint used;
4. The nature and extent of any injury to the student;

5. The names, roles and certifications of any district personnel involved in the use of seclusion or restraint;
6. The name, role and signature of the person who prepared the report;
7. The name of an employee whom the parent/guardian can contact regarding the incident and use of seclusion or restraint;
8. The name of an employee to contact if the parent/guardian wishes to file a complaint; and
9. A statement directing parents/guardians to a sociological, emotional or behavioral support organization and a hotline number to report child abuse and neglect.

The report will be an education record of the student. The district or district contractor will provide a copy of the report to the parent/guardian of the student within five school days, and a copy of each incident report will be given to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education within 30 days of the incident.

#### **I. TRAINING**

The District will provide annual training to all staff concerning the District's use of seclusion, isolation and restraint. Annual training will also include, but will not be limited to, approved methods of dealing with school violence, discipline of students with disabilities, and the requirements of student confidentiality.

In addition to the training to District staff, those who utilize isolation or restraint will also receive annual training in:

1. The appropriate use of physical restraint.
2. Professionally accepted practices in the use of restraint and isolation.
3. The appropriate use of isolation.

Adopted: January 22, 1991  
Revised: December 7, 1999  
Revised: July 29, 2010  
Revised: June 26, 2012  
Revised: June 28, 2022

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[\[1\]](#) School officials possess comprehensive authority to prescribe and control conduct of students in the public schools. *Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist.* 393 U.S. 503, 507 (1969). In Missouri, the school board is statutorily authorized to make all rules necessary for the organization, grading, and government of the school district. §171.011, RSMo 2000. Disruptive conduct on school premises can be prohibited by school officials to provide an environment conducive for learning. *Streeter v. Hundley*, 580 S.W.2d 282, 286 (Mo. Banc 1979).

[2] Restraint is defined as an act, which may be forceful in nature, of holding back, limiting or controlling someone or something.