

RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

I. Policy Rationale and Philosophy:

The District believes that the school environment should be one in which the care, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members are priorities. In the event that an individual's behavior presents a threat of imminent harm to self or others the use of restraint or seclusion to maintain a safe environment may be used as a last resort.

II. Definitions

- A. Restraint: Personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the torso, arms, legs, or head of the student freely. Such term does not include physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint. Such term does not include:
 - a. Temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of encouraging a student to move voluntarily to a safe location;
 - b. A behavioral intervention used as a response to calm and comfort an upset student;
 - c. Less restrictive physical contact or redirection to promote student safety;
 - d. Physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill or redirecting the attention of the student;
 - e. Knocking a weapon away from a student's possession or to break up a fight;
 - f. Physical contact to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (i.e. running in front of a car).
- B. Seclusion: Involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is prevented from leaving but not including classroom timeouts, quiet rooms, in-school detentions/suspensions, or out-of-school suspensions.
- C. Time Out/Quiet Rooms: A behavioral intervention in which a student, for a limited or specified time, is separated from the class within the classroom or in a non-locked setting for the purpose of self-regulating and controlling his or her own behavior.

III. Notification

The Bridgewater Emery School will notify the parent or guardian of the student, unless the student is emancipated, of an incident requiring the use of restraint or seclusion. This will be done within the school day if school is still in session that day.

IV. Prone Restraint

No employee of the Bridgewater Emery School District will use the method of prone restraint, defined as physical pressure applied to any part of the student's body to keep the student in a face down position on the floor or other surface, except when that use is necessary and reasonable in manner and moderate in degree.

V. Involuntary Confinement

No student will be placed in involuntary confinement in a locked room alone unless there is a clear and present danger.