



## Emergency Safety Interventions: Key Requirements

### Physical Restraint:

Bodily force used to substantially limit a student's movement, except that consensual, solicited or unintentional contact and contact to provide comfort, assistance or instruction shall not be deemed to be physical restraint. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort. Physical escort means the temporary touching or holding the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back of a student who is acting out for the purpose of inducing the student to walk to a safe location.

**Prohibited physical restraint** includes the use of prone (face-down) physical restraint, supine (face-up) physical restraint, physical restraint that obstructs the airway of a student, or any physical restraint that impacts a student's primary mode of communication.

### Mechanical Restraint (Prohibited):

Any device or object used to limit a student's movement including handcuffs which may not be used by school security or other non-law enforcement personnel. This term does not include those protective or stabilizing devices either ordered by a person licensed to issue the order for the device or required by law. This term also does not include any device used by a law enforcement officer in carrying out law enforcement duties and seatbelts and any other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation.

### Chemical Restraint (Prohibited):

Use of medication to control a student's violent physical behavior or restrict a student's freedom of movement. This term does not include prescribed treatments for a student's medical or psychiatric condition by a person appropriately licensed to issue these treatments.

### Seclusion:

Placement of a student in a location where all the following conditions are met:

- (1) The student is placed in an enclosed area by school personnel;
- (2) the student is purposefully isolated from adults and peers; and
- (3) the student is prevented from leaving, or the student reasonably believes that the student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.

It does not include a time-out, which is a behavioral intervention in which a student is temporarily removed from a learning activity without being secluded. When a student is placed in seclusion, a staff member must be able to see and hear the student at all times. All seclusion rooms that have a locking door must be designed to ensure that the lock automatically disengages when the staff member watching the student walks away or in cases of emergency such as fire or severe weather. If a school uses a seclusion room it must be a safe place, free of any dangerous conditions, well-ventilated, and sufficiently lighted.

### Standards for the Use of Emergency Safety Intervention

- Emergency safety intervention shall only be used when the student presents a reasonable and immediate danger of physical harm to self or others with the present ability to effect such physical harm.
- Less restrictive alternatives, such as positive behavior interventions support, must be deemed inappropriate or ineffective under the circumstances prior to emergency safety intervention being used.
- Use of emergency safety intervention must stop immediately when the danger of physical harm ends.
- Violent action that is destructive of property may necessitate the use of emergency safety intervention.
- Emergency safety intervention must not be used for discipline, punishment, or the convenience of a school employee.
- An emergency safety intervention may not be used with a student if the student is known to have a medical condition that could put the student in mental or physical danger as a result of the use of an emergency safety intervention unless not using an emergency safety intervention would result in significant physical harm to the student or others. The medical condition must be indicated in a written statement from the student's licensed health care provider, and a copy of which shall be provided to the school and placed in the student's file.