



Safety, Seclusion, and Restraint
Procedures

2021-2022

I. Dissemination of Policy, Procedures, and LDE Guidance

The Principal shall make available to school personnel and the parents/guardians/students of majority age, copies of La.R.S. 17:416.21 (Louisiana Act 328 of 2011), LDE Guidance, and local policies and procedures regarding the use of reasonable restraint and seclusion of students with exceptionalities in the educational environment. It shall be considered permissible to publish such regulations, guidance, policies and procedures on the website of the Orleans Parish School Board. Such restraint and seclusion notification shall also be referenced and/or included in the annual notice of student rights and responsibilities provided to the parents/guardians/students of majority age.

II. Use of Restraint and/or Seclusion By School Personnel

TIME OUT:

School personnel may separate a student from other students for a limited duration as a behavior management technique, as long as the student is monitored at all times and is not substantially isolated from instructional activities. TIME OUT is not considered seclusion; however, TIME OUT periods must be documented to ensure that repetitive incidents of TIME OUT do not occur and to ensure that repetitive behaviors are addressed appropriately.

Monitoring requires close, visual proximity to the student, release as soon as the behaviors cease that led to the isolation/seclusion, the space where the student is secluded has adequate lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling, the space is free of objects or items that may unreasonably expose the student to danger; the space is designated by the school as a safe environment for temporary, safety required seclusion.

SECLUSION:

School personnel may use seclusion (isolation and confinement of the student in a separate area) ONLY when the student poses an immediate risk of danger to self or others as more fully described below:

- The person is in control of a weapon

- Isolation is needed to break up a fight or maintain order at the school
- The person poses a viable threat of imminent harm to self or others or substantial destruction of school property
- Isolation is required/specified by a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, and/or Behavior Intervention Plan
- Other such incidents involving imminent risk of significant injury to the student or others.

Seclusion SHALL BE:

- The action of last resort when de-escalation attempts have failed and the student continues to pose an imminent threat to self or others.
- Used only as long as necessary to minimize the risk of harm while summoning the assistance of crisis intervention personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and/or law enforcement officers when a crime has been committed.

Seclusion SHALL NOT be used:

- As the sole means of behavioral intervention and support for any student with a disability
- As a form of discipline or punishment
- As a threat to control, bully, or obtain behavioral compliance
For the convenience of school personnel
- When unreasonable, unsafe, or unwarranted
- If the student is known to have any medical or psychological condition that precludes such action (as certified by a licensed health care providers in a written statement provided to the school in which the student is enrolled)
- After the substantial risk of injury no longer exists.

Monitoring: A student placed in seclusion must be monitored/supervised at all times by an adult. Monitoring requires close, visual proximity to the student, release as soon as the behaviors cease that led to the isolation/seclusion, the space where the student is secluded has adequate lighting, ventilation, heating and cooling, the space is free of objects or items that may unreasonably expose the student to danger; the space is designated by the school as a safe environment for temporary, safety-required seclusion.

*****Seclusion used for reasons other than imminent risk of harm and contrary to the procedures listed above shall be considered unreasonable and strictly prohibited. Seclusion SHALL NOT be used as a disciplinary consequence for**

minor infractions or to otherwise isolate the student from needed educational instruction.***

Seclusion Room

School personnel may confine a student with a disability to a seclusion room (a room or other confined area from which the student is involuntarily prevented from leaving) on an individual basis and for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting.

When the use of a seclusion room is necessary, the student with a disability should be escorted to the seclusion area without the use of physical force. Physical prompts are permissible for the purpose of safely guiding the student from one area to another, but care should be taken to limit the use of physical contact with the student and to avoid the use of physical force. Verbal redirection and other means of positive support should be used before resorting to physical means.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER CONDITIONS:

When a seclusion room is necessary as a last resort (after less restrictive measures have been used such as positive behavioral supports, constructive and non-physical de-escalation, and restructuring of the student's environment), the following environmental and other conditions are REQUIRED:

- The student must be supervised by a school employee
- The supervising employee must be able to see and hear the student the entire time the student is confined to the seclusion room
- The seclusion room must be free of any object that poses a potential danger to the student while in the room
- The seclusion room must have an observation window of a size appropriate to the student's size, behavior, and chronological and developmental age
- The seclusion room must have a ceiling height and heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting systems comparable to operating classrooms in the school
- The seclusion room must NOT be used as a form of discipline or punishment or to threaten or bully the student or to obtain behavioral compliance
- The seclusion room must NOT be used for the convenience of school personnel or when unreasonable, unsafe, or unwarranted
- The seclusion room IS NOT PERMITTED for use by a student has a known medical or psychological condition that precludes its use (as certified by a licensed health care provider in a written statement provided to the school).

Documentation

- All incidents of seclusion and use of a seclusion room must be documented on the Seclusion/Restraint Report Forms and entered in SER.
- A copy of the procedures governing the use of seclusion/seclusion rooms should be provided to the parent(s) and/or student of majority age at each student's annual IEP review meeting. A statement can be added to the IEP document indicating that the parent was provided a copy of the school district's restraint/seclusion procedures.

Incident Reporting

- Reporting the use of seclusion and/or restraint MUST be made to SPECIFIED individuals within the timelines indicated in these procedures and recorded on the Seclusion/Restraint Report Forms.
- Seclusion/Restraint Reporting data must be analyzed at least annually. These procedures should be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness.
- Data will be used to track the number of incidents of seclusion by student, staff, and type of incidents; description and number of injuries sustained by student and/or staff and the nature of any such injuries; and other factors such as precipitating events and other observable factors.

Physical Restraint is permitted only under the following conditions:

- *If the student's behavior presents a threat of imminent risk of harm to self or others.
- *As a last resort to protect the safety of self and others.
- *To the degree necessary to stop dangerous behavior.
- *In a manner that causes NO PHYSICAL INJURY to the student.
- *Results in the least possible discomfort to the student.
- *Does not interfere in any way with a student's breathing or ability to communicate with

others.

*Does not involve the use of any form of mechanical restraint.

*The student is not physically restrained in a manner that places excessive pressure on the student's chest or back or that causes asphyxia.

*Applied only in a manner that is directly proportionate to the circumstances and to the student's size, age, and severity of behavior.

*If the school employee has been CPI trained.

*All restraint must be documented.

Physical Restraint is prohibited:

*As a form of discipline or punishment.

*As a threat to control, bully, or obtain behavioral compliance.

*For the convenience of school personnel.

*When unreasonable, unsafe, or unwarranted.

*If the student is known to have any medical or psychological condition that precludes such action (as certified by a licensed health care provider in a written statement provided to the school in which the student is enrolled).

* No student shall be subjected to any form of mechanical restraint by school employees.