

**GEO PREP MID-CITY
SPECIAL EDUCATION SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT GUIDELINES AND
PROCEDURES
(La. R.S. 17:416.21)**

The School Board recognizes that, in order for students to receive a free appropriate public education, a safe learning environment needs to be provided. In doing so, the School Board also recognizes that there are circumstances in school under which reasonable and appropriate measures and techniques will need to be employed in dealing with students with exceptionalities who pose an imminent risk of harm to self or others. **These provisions do not apply to a student who has been deemed to be Gifted or Talented unless the student has also been identified having a disability.**

The School Board fully supports the use of positive behavior interventions and supports when addressing student behavior. The School Board reserves its right, however, to use physical restraint and/or seclusion consistent with state law to address the behavior of a student with a disability when school personnel reasonably believe the behavior poses an imminent risk of harm to the student or others. The School Board shall not preclude the use of physical restraint and/or seclusion performed consistent with the requirements of a student's *Individualized Education Program (IEP)* or behavior intervention/management plan. For the purposes of this policy:

1. ***Imminent risk of harm*** shall mean in immediate and impending threat of a person causing substantial physical injury to self or others.
2. ***Seclusion*** shall mean a procedure that isolates and confines a student in a separate room or area until he or she is no longer an immediate danger to self or others.
3. ***Seclusion room*** means a room or other confined area used as on an individual basis, in which a student is removed from the regular classroom setting for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting and from which the student is involuntarily prevented from leaving.
4. ***Mechanical restraint*** means application of any device or object used to limit a person's movement. Mechanical restraint does **not** include:
 - a. a protective or stabilizing device used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for proper use and which is used in compliance with orders issued by an appropriate licensed healthcare provider; and
 - b. any device used by a duly licensed law enforcement officer in the execution of his/her official duties;
5. ***Physical restraint*** means bodily force used to limit a person's movement. Physical restraint does **not** include:
 - a. consensual, solicited or unintentional contact;
 - b. momentary blocking of a student's action if the student's action is likely to result in harm to the student or any other person (**Act 522 of the Regular Session 2016**);
 - c. holding of a student by one school employee, for the purpose of calming or comforting the student, provided the student's freedom of movement or normal access to his or her body is not restricted;
 - d. minimal physical contact for the purpose of safely escorting a student from one area to another; or minimal physical contact for the purpose of assisting the student in completing a task or response.
6. ***Positive behavior interventions and support*** means is a systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data-driven decision making when addressing student behavior in order to improve the school climate and culture.
7. ***School employee*** means the teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, support staff member or provider related services.

The parent or legal guardian of a student who has been placed in seclusion or physical restraint shall be notified as soon as possible. The student's parents or legal guardian shall also be notified, in writing, within twenty-four (24) hours of each incident of seclusion or physical restraint. Such notice shall include the reason for such seclusion or physical restraint, the procedures used, the length of time of the student seclusion or physical restraint and the names and titles of any school employee involved.

The Lead Principal, Sandra Douglas @sdouglas@geoacademies.org - phone (225) 337-7636, shall be notified any time a student is placed in seclusion or physical restraint. A school employee who has placed a student in seclusion or who has physically restrained a student shall document and report **each incident**. Such report shall be submitted to school principal no later than school day immediately following the day of which the student was placed in seclusion or physically restrained and a copy shall be provided to the student's parent or legal guardian.

All instances where seclusion or physical restraint by the principal or administrator used to address an Special Education student's behavior shall be reported the Director of Special Education, Myra Jordan @ mjordan@geoacademies.org – phone (225) 927-1500, who will submit the report to the Louisiana Department of Education.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for conducting or obtaining an appropriate training program for school personnel designed to address the use of seclusion or restraint technique with students with disabilities. In addition, positive behavioral intervention strategies, crisis intervention and de-escalation, as well as other procedures may also be included in any training.

Following any situation resulting in the use of seclusion or restraint of a student, a *Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)* should be considered. If a student subject to the use of seclusion or physical restraint is involved in five (5) such incidents in the school year, the student's *Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team shall* review and revise the student's Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) to include any appropriate and necessary behavioral supports.

Thereafter, if the student's challenging behavior continues or escalates requiring repeated use of seclusion or physical restraint practices, the special education director or designee shall review the student's plans at least once every three weeks.

The School Board shall provide seclusion and restraint procedures to the Louisiana Department of Education, all school employees and every parent of a student with an exceptionality, and requires the posting of such procedures at each school and on each school's website. **(Act 522 of Regular Session 2016).**