

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	<b>CODE: JKAA-R</b> Page: 1
<b>SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION</b>	
Date of Original: April 2021 Date of Next Review: Cancels Policy Code: Revision Date: October 21, 2021	
<b>JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools</b>	

**POLICY: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION**

These procedures are established for the purpose of meeting the obligations of RSU 73 under state law / regulations and Board Policy JKAA governing the use of physical restraint and seclusion. These procedures shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with state law and regulations.

**1. PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

To the extent possible, physical restraint will be implemented by staff certified in a training program approved by the Maine Department of Education. If untrained staff have intervened and initiated a physical restraint in an emergency, trained staff must be summoned to the scene to assume control of the situation if the emergency continues.

This procedure does not preclude law enforcement personnel from implementing physical restraints consistent with their professional responsibilities.

**A. Permitted Uses of Physical Restraint**

- i. Physical restraint may be used only when the behavior of a student presents an imminent risk of serious physical injury to the student or others and only after other less intrusive interventions have failed or been deemed inappropriate. The physical restraint must end immediately upon the cessation of the imminent risk of serious physical injury to the student or another person and should involve the least amount of force necessary to protect the student or other person.

“Serious physical injury” is a physical injury that a reasonable person would consider to be serious for the victim if it were to occur.

- ii. Prescribed medications, harnesses, seat belts, and other assistive or protective devices may be used as permitted by law as described in Policy JKAA.
- iii. Parents / legal guardians may be requested to provide assistance with their child at any time.

**B. Prohibited Forms and Uses of Physical Restraint**

- i. Physical restraint used for punitive purposes; as a therapeutic or educational intervention; for staff convenience; or to control challenging behavior.

## SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
Date of Next Review:  
Cancels Policy Code:  
Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

- ii. Physical restraint used solely to prevent property destruction or disruption of the environment in the absence of a risk of serious physical injury.
- iii. Physical restraint that is life-threatening, restricts breathing, or restricts blood flow to the brain, including prone restraint.
- iv. Physical restraint that relies on pain for control, including but not limited to joint hyperextension, excessive force, unsupported take-downs (e.g. tackles), the use of any physical structure (e.g. wall, railing, or post), punching, and hitting.
- v. Physical restraint that is contraindicated based on the child's disability, health care needs, or medical or psychiatric condition if documented in:
  - A healthcare detective or medical management plan;
  - A school approved behavior plan;
  - An IEP or an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP); or
  - A school approved 504 or ADA plan.
- vi. Aversive procedures and mechanical / chemical restraints.
  - Aversive procedures are defined as the use of a substance or stimulus intended to modify behavior, which the person administering it knows or should know is likely to cause physical and/or emotional trauma to a student, even when the substance or stimulus appears to be pleasant or neutral to others. Such substances and stimuli include but are not limited to infliction of bodily pain (e.g., hitting, pinching, slapping); water spray, noxious fumes, extreme physical exercise, costumes, or signs.
  - Mechanical restraints are defined as any restraint that uses a device to restrict a student's freedom of movement. Such restraints do not include adaptive devices or mechanical supports to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of movement or the use of vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.
  - Chemical restraints, that are used on a student to control behavior or restrict freedom of movement, are defined as the use of drug or medication that is not prescribed as the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition by a licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under state law.

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
 Date of Next Review:  
 Cancels Policy Code:  
 Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

### C. Monitoring Students in Physical Restraint

- i. At least two adults must be present at all times when physical restraint is used except when, for safety reasons, waiting for a second adult to arrive is precluded by the particular circumstances.
- ii. The student must be continuously monitored until they no longer present a risk of injury or harm to themselves or others.
- iii. If an injury occurs, applicable school policies and procedures should be followed.

### D. Termination of Physical Restraint

- i. The staff involved in the use of physical restraint must continually assess for signs that the student in physical restraint is no longer presenting an imminent risk of serious physical injury to themselves or others. The physical restraint must be discontinued immediately after it is determined that the imminent risk of serious physical harm has ended.
  - The time a student is in physical restraint must be monitored and recorded.
  - If physical restraint continues for more than ten (10) minutes, an administrator / designee shall determine whether continued physical restraint is warranted and shall continue to monitor the status of the physical restraint every ten (10) minutes until the restraint is terminated.
  - If attempts to release the student from physical restraint have been unsuccessful and the student continues to present behaviors that create an imminent risk of serious physical injury to themselves or to others, then staff may request additional assistance from other school staff, parents/legal guardians, medical providers, or other appropriate persons or organizations.

## 2. SECLUSION

To the extent possible, seclusion will be implemented by staff certified in a training program approved by the Maine Department of Education. If untrained staff have intervened and initiated seclusion in an emergency, trained staff must be summoned to the scene as soon as possible.

A “timeout” where a student requests or complies with an adult request for a break is not considered seclusion under this procedure. Seclusion also does not include any situation where others are present in the room or clearly defined area with the student (including, but not limited to, classrooms, offices, and other school locations).

### A. Permitted Uses and Location of Seclusion

- i. Seclusion may be used only as an emergency intervention when the behavior of a student presents an imminent risk of serious physical injury to themselves or others, and only after other less intrusive interventions have failed or been deemed inappropriate.

**SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION**

Date of Original: April 2021  
Date of Next Review:  
Cancels Policy Code:  
Revision Date: October 21, 2021

**JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools**

The seclusion must end immediately upon the cessation of the imminent risk of serious physical injury to the student or another person.

“Serious physical injury” is a physical injury that a reasonable person would consider to be serious for the victim if it were to occur.

- ii. Seclusion may be achieved in any part of a school building with adequate light, heat, ventilation and normal room height.
  - Seclusion may NOT take place in a locked room
  - If a specific room is designated as a seclusion room, it must be a minimum of sixty (60) square feet; have adequate light, heat and ventilation; be of normal room height; contain an unbreakable observation window in a wall or door; and must be free of hazardous material and objects which the student could use to self-inflict bodily injury.
- iii. Parents / legal guardians may be requested to provide assistance with their child at any time.

**B. Prohibited Uses of Seclusion**

- i. Seclusion used for punitive purposes; as a therapeutic or educational intervention; for staff convenience; or to control challenging behavior.
- ii. Seclusion used solely to prevent property destruction or disruption of the environment in the absence of an imminent risk of serious physical injury.
- iii. Seclusion that is life-threatening.
- iv. Seclusion that is contraindicated based on the child’s disability, health care needs, or medical or psychiatric condition if documented in:
  - A health care directive or medical management plan;
  - A school-approved behavior plan;
  - An IEP or IFSP; or
  - A school-approved 504 or ADA plan.

**C. Monitoring Students in Seclusion**

- i. At least one adult must be physically present at all times to continuously monitor a student in seclusion. The adult, while not present in the room or defined area, must be situated so that the student is visible at all times.
- ii. The student must be continuously monitored until they no longer present an imminent risk of serious physical injury to themselves or to others.
- iii. If an injury occurs, applicable school policies and procedures should be followed.

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
 Date of Next Review:  
 Cancels Policy Code:  
 Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

#### D. Termination of Seclusion

- i. The staff involved in the seclusion must continually assess for signs that the student is no longer presenting an imminent risk of serious physical injury to themselves or others, and the seclusion must be discontinued as soon as the imminent risk ceases.
  - The time a student is in seclusion must be monitored and recorded.
  - If seclusion continues for more than ten (10) minutes, an administrator / designee shall determine whether continued seclusion is warranted and shall continue to monitor the status of the seclusion every ten (10) minutes until the seclusion is terminated.
  - If attempts to release a student from seclusion have been unsuccessful and the student continues to present behaviors that create an imminent risk of serious physical injury to the student or to others, then staff may request additional assistance from other school staff, parents/legal guardians, medical providers, or other appropriate persons or organizations.

### 3. Notification and Reports of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Incidents

For the purposes of this procedure, an “incident” consists of all actions between the time a student begins to create an imminent risk of serious physical injury and the time the student ceases to pose that imminent risk and returns to their regular programming.

#### A. Notice Requirements

After each incident of physical restraint or seclusion:

- i. A staff member involved in the incident shall make an oral notification to the administrator / designee as soon as possible but no later than the end of the school day.
- ii. An administrator / designee shall notify the parent / legal guardian about the physical restraint or seclusion and any related first aid provided as soon as practical but within the school day in which the incident occurred. The administrator / designee must utilize all available phone numbers or other available contact information to reach the parent / legal guardian. If the parent / legal guardian is unavailable, the administrator / designee must leave a message, if the parent / legal guardian has a phone and message capability, to contact the school as soon as possible. The parent / legal guardian must be informed that written documentation will be provided within seven (7) calendar days.
- iii. If the physical restraint or seclusion incident occurred outside the school day, the notifications must be made as soon as possible and in accordance with the school unit’s usual emergency notification procedures.

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
 Date of Next Review:  
 Cancels Policy Code:  
 Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

- iv. If serious bodily injury or death of a student occurs during the implementation of physical restraint or seclusion, the RSU 73 emergency notification procedures shall be followed and an administrator / designee shall notify the Maine Department of Education within twenty-four (24) hours or the next business day.

### B. Incident Reports

Each use of physical restraint or seclusion must be documented in an incident report. The incident report must be completed and provided to an administrator / designee as soon as practicable, and in all cases within two (2) school days of the incident. The parent / legal guardian must be provided a copy of the incident report within seven (7) calendar days of the incident.

The incident report must include the following elements:

- Student name;
- Age, gender and grade;
- Location of the incident;
- Date of the incident;
- Date of report;
- Person completing the report;
- Beginning and ending time of each physical restraint and / or seclusion;
- Total time of incident;
- Description of prior events and circumstances;
- Description of less restrictive interventions tried prior to the use of physical restraint and / or seclusion, or the reasons why none were used;
- The student behavior justifying the use of physical restraint or seclusion;
- A detailed description of the physical restraint or seclusion used;
- The staff person(s) involved, their role in the physical restraint or seclusion, and whether each person is certified in an approved training program;
- Description of the incident, including the resolution and process of returning the student to their program, if appropriate;
- Whether the student has an IEP, 504 Plan, behavior plan, IHP (individual health plan), or any other plan;
- If a student and / or staff sustained bodily injury, the date and time of nurse or other response personnel notification, and any treatment administered;
- The date, time, and method of parent / legal guardian notification;

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
 Date of Next Review:  
 Cancels Policy Code:  
 Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

- The date and time of administrator / designee notification;
- Date and time of staff debriefing.

Copies of the incident reports shall be maintained in the student's file and in the school office.

#### 4. School Unit Response Following the Use of Physical Restraint or Seclusion

- i. Following each incident of physical restraint or seclusion, an administrator / designee shall take these steps within two (2) school days (unless serious bodily injury requiring emergency medical treatment occurred, in which case these steps must take place as soon as possible, but no later than the next school day.):
  - Review the incident with all staff persons involved to discuss:
    - Whether the use of physical restraint or seclusion complied with state and school board requirements and
    - How to prevent or reduce the need for physical restraint and / or seclusion in the future.
- ii. Following the meetings, staff must develop and implement a written plan for response and de-escalation for the student. If a plan already exists, staff must review it and make revisions if appropriate.

"De-escalation" is the use of behavior management techniques intended to cause a situation involving problem behavior of a student to become more controlled, calm, and less dangerous, thus reducing the risk of injury or harm.

#### 5. Procedure for Students with Three Incidents in a School Year

The school unit will make reasonable, documented efforts to encourage parent / legal guardian participation in the meetings required in this section and to schedule meetings at times convenient for parents / legal guardians to attend.

- i. Special Education / 504 Students
  - After the third incident of physical restraint and / or seclusion in one school year, the student's IEP or 504 Team shall meet within ten (10) school days of the third incident to discuss the incident, to consider the need to conduct an FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment), and / or develop a BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan) or amend an existing one.
- ii. All Other Students
  - A team consisting of the parent / legal guardian, administrator / designee, a teacher for the student, a staff member involved in the incident (if not the administrator / designee or

**SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION**

Date of Original: April 2021  
Date of Next Review:  
Cancels Policy Code:  
Revision Date: October 21, 2021

**JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools**

teacher already invited), and other appropriate staff shall meet within ten (10) school days to discuss the incidents.

- The team shall consider the appropriateness of a referral to special education and, regardless of whether a referral to special education is made, the need to conduct an FBA and / or to develop a BIP.

## 6. Cumulative Reporting Requirements

### i. Reports Within the School Unit

- Each building administrator must report the following data on a quarterly and annual basis:
- Aggregate number of uses of physical restraint;
  - Aggregate number of students placed in physical restraint;
  - Aggregate number of uses of seclusion;
  - Aggregate number of students placed in seclusion;
  - Aggregate number of students with disabilities having IEPs or 504 / ADA plans who are placed in physical restraint;
  - Aggregate number of students with disabilities having IEPs or 504 / ADA plans who are placed in seclusion;
  - Aggregate number of serious physical injuries to student related to the use of physical restraints;
  - Aggregate number of serious physical injuries to students related to the use of seclusion;
  - Aggregate number of serious physical injuries to staff related to use of physical restraints; and
  - Aggregate number of serious physical injuries to staff related to the use of seclusion.
- The Superintendent shall review the cumulative reports and identify any areas that could be addressed to reduce the future of physical restraint and seclusion.

### ii. Reports to Maine Department of Education

- The Superintendent shall submit a report to the Maine Department of Education on an annual basis that includes the information in Section 7.A.1 above.



SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Date of Original: April 2021  
Date of Next Review:  
Cancels Policy Code:  
Revision Date: October 21, 2021

JURISDICTION: **RSU 73 Schools**

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 4014, 4502(5)(M); 4009  
Me. DOE Reg., ch. 33

Cross Reference: JKAA - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion  
JK - Student Discipline  
KLG / KLG-R - Relations with Law Enforcement  
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

***Adopted: April 2021***

***Revised: OCTOBER 21, 2021***