

Emergency Safety Interventions

The Wellington USD 353 board of education is committed to limiting the use of Emergency Safety Interventions (“ESI”), such as seclusion and restraint, with all students. The Wellington USD 353 board of education encourages all employees to utilize other behavioral management tools, including prevention techniques, de-escalation techniques, and positive behavioral intervention strategies.

This policy shall be made available on the district website www.usd353.com. In addition, this policy shall be included in at least one of the following: USD 353 crisis plan, or student handbook.

Definitions

“Emergency Safety Intervention” is the use of seclusion or physical restraint when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others. Violent action that is destructive of property may necessitate the use of an emergency safety intervention.

“Seclusion” requires all three of the following conditions to be 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 reasonably believes that the student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.

“Chemical Restraint” means the use of medication to control a student’s violent physical behavior or restrict a student’s freedom of movement.

“Mechanical Restraint” means any device or object used to limit a student’s movement.

“Physical Restraint” means bodily force used to substantially limit a student’s movement.

“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.

“Time-out” means a behavioral intervention in which a student is temporarily removed from a learning activity without being confined.

Prohibited Types of Restraint

All staff members are prohibited from engaging in the following actions with all students:

- Using face-down (prone) physical restraint;
- Using face-up (supine) physical restraint;
- Using physical restraint that obstructs the student’s airway;
- Using physical restraint that impacts a student’s primary mode of communication;
- Using chemical restraint, except as prescribed by a licensed healthcare professional for treatment of a medical or psychiatric condition; and
- Use of mechanical restraint, except:
 - Protective or stabilizing devices required by law or used in accordance with an order from a licensed healthcare professional;
 - Any device used by law enforcement officers to carry out law enforcement duties; or
 - Seatbelts and other safety equipment used to secure students during transportation.

Training

The superintendent shall ensure that all district personnel are trained annually with information about this policy. The superintendent shall ensure that designated district personnel are trained and know the procedures involving the use of seclusion and restraint as defined by the CPI system.

- Nonviolent crisis intervention
- A continuum of prevention and de-escalation techniques.
- Use of positive behavioral intervention strategies.
- The appropriate use of physical restraint.
- Professionally accepted practices in physical management and use of physical restraint.
- Methods to explain the proposed restraint methods to students and parents/guardians.
- The appropriate use of seclusion.
- Appropriate documentation and notification procedures.

The training for school employees should be consistent with nationally-recognized training programs to ensure that school employees are trained in the proper use of seclusion and physical restraint to prevent harm to students or other. The Wellington USD 353 employs the use of the CPI system, a nationally-recognized training system.

Each school building shall maintain documentation regarding the training that was provided and a list of participants.

Documentation

The principal or designee shall provide written notification to the student's parents any time that ESI is used with a student. Such notification must be provided within two (2) school days.

In addition, each building shall maintain documentation any time ESI is used with a student. Such documentation must include all of the following:

- Date and time of the intervention,
- Type of intervention,

- Length of time the intervention was used, and
- School personnel who participated in or supervised the intervention.

All such documentation shall be provided to the building principal, who shall be responsible for providing copies of such documentation to the superintendent on at least a biannual basis. At least once per school year, each building principal or designee shall review the documentation of ESI incidents with appropriate staff members to consider the appropriateness of the use of ESI in those instances.

Reporting Data

District administration shall report ESI data to the state department of education as required.

Local Dispute Resolution Process

The board of education encourages parents to attempt to resolve issues relating to the use of ESI informally with the building principal and/or the superintendent by using patron complaint form before filing a formal complaint with the board. In the event that the complaint is resolved informally, the administrator must provide a written report of the informal resolution to the superintendent and the parents and retain a copy of the report at the school. The superintendent will share the informal resolution with the board of education and provide a copy to the state department of education.

If the issues are not resolved informally with the building principal and/or the superintendent, the parents may submit a formal written complaint to the board of education by providing a copy of the complaint to the clerk of the board and the superintendent.

Upon receipt of a formal written complaint, the board president shall assign an investigator to review the complaint and report findings to the board as a whole. Such investigator may be a board member, or a school administrator selected by the board. Such investigator shall be informed of the obligation to maintain confidentiality of student records and shall report the findings and recommended action to the board in executive session.

Any such investigation must be completed within thirty (30) days of receipt of the formal written complaint by the board clerk and superintendent. On or before the 30th day after receipt of the written complaint, the board shall adopt a report containing written findings of fact and, if necessary, appropriate corrective action. A copy of the report adopted by the board shall be provided to the parents, the school, and the state board of education.

