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USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

5.343*+

I. It is the policy of the School Board of Citrus County to implement behavioral management techniques, strategies and interventions for students to prevent and reduce significant disruptive behavior, and to provide for the physical safety and security of students and staff when disruptive students pose a threat to themselves and/or others. The focus shall be on the use of the least restrictive but effective intervention(s) for each student.

II. The use of manual physical restraint or seclusion shall only be used as a last resort, in emergency situations where aggressive and/or self-injurious behaviors present an immediate, significant, and imminent threat to the physical safety of the student and/or others. The use of manual physical restraint and/or seclusion shall be in accordance with Board policy and District procedures.

III. The use of mechanical physical restraint and/or manual physical restraints that restrict a student’s breathing is prohibited.

IV. The use of any physical restraint or seclusion for students with disabilities must be reported in accordance with this policy and applicable state law and rules of the State Board of Education (DOE).

V. Definitions

A. Student with a Disability – A student with a disability is any student with a qualifying condition/disability as defined by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et. seq. or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794. See 34 C.F.R. § 104.3(j) & 34 C.F.R. § 300.8. These students will either have an active Individual Education Plan, IEP, or 504 Plan.

B. Time Out – Time out is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, is implemented for the purpose of calming and access to reinforcement is removed or reduced for a designated time.

1. Nonexclusion time out is the least restrictive form of time out. The student is allowed to observe the classroom activity but not participate.
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2. Exclusion time out excludes the student from participation in and observation of classroom activities. The student remains in the classroom but cannot observe or participate in ongoing activities.

C. Seclusion – Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. It does not include a timeout.

D. Manual Physical Restraint – Manual physical restraint is a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head freely. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort.

E. Mechanical Restraint – Mechanical restraint is the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student’s freedom of movement. The term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

1. Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;

2. Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;

3. Restraints for medical immobilization; or

4. Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

F. Physical Escort – Physical escort is temporary touching, holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location.

G. Physical restraint may only be implemented by trained, qualified school personnel.

VI. Documentation and Reporting

Each instance of seclusion and/or manual physical restraint shall be documented and reported as required by statute.
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VII. Monitoring and Analysis

A. The use of manual physical restraint and/or seclusion shall be monitored at the classroom, school, and District levels.

B. The use of the behavior interventions, the appropriateness of use and the effectiveness of the interventions shall be monitored and analyzed.

VIII. Prohibitions

School personnel shall not

A. Use a mechanical restraint or a manual physical restraint that restricts a student’s breathing.

B. Close, lock or physically block a student in a room that is unlit or that does not meet the rules of the State Fire Marshall for a seclusion time out room.

C. Use manual physical restraint or seclusion for periods of time greater than that which is required to assist the student in regaining control of his/her disruptive behavior.

IX. Training

A. The District shall provide initial training for designated personnel in the use of seclusion and manual physical restraint.

B. Refresher training shall be conducted annually.

C. Personnel who have been trained in manual physical restraint techniques outside of the District shall receive training in District methods.

X. Procedures

The Superintendent shall develop procedures to implement this policy and related statutes. Procedures shall include but not be limited to the following:

A. Incident reporting;

B. Data collection;
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C. Monitoring and analysis;

D. Identification of staff to be trained; and

E. Training components.

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