



## Summary of Expectations for Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint

*This informational overview is a general reference guide intended only to clarify for schools relevant legal and contractual obligations, including OPSB Policy. It is NOT a substitute for understanding federal and state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies nor is it a comprehensive description of all applicable legal and contractual obligations. Additionally, it is not meant to explain or delineate OPSB strategic priorities.*

OPSB expects that all Charter Schools comply with La. R.S. 17:416.21, 17:3996(B)(29) and BESE Bulletin 1706 §540-543 when dealing with the behavior of students with exceptionalities in the use of seclusion and physical restraint.

Schools must meet the following requirements for Student Seclusion and Physical Restraint:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only be used if there is an imminent risk of harm to student/others and is used as a last resort when all other de-escalation attempts have failed.</li> <li>• Cannot be used as a means to address behaviors such as general noncompliance, self-stimulation, and academic refusal.</li> <li>• Every 15 minute interval in which the student is restrained, information regarding the student must be documented.</li> <li>• Student must be released as soon as the reason for justifying such actions has been subsided.</li> </ul>	
<b>Student Seclusion</b>	<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seclusion room must be free of dangerous objects and have an observation window; ceiling height, ventilation, and lighting must be comparable to operating classrooms in the school</li> <li>• Only 1 student may be placed in a seclusion room at any given time.</li> <li>• Student must be seen, heard, and supervised by a school employee for the entire time of seclusion.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Restraint of a Student</b>	<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can only be used to the degree necessary to stop dangerous behavior and cannot cause physical injury.</li> <li>• Any efforts used to physically restrain a student must be directly proportionate to the circumstances and the student's size, age, and severity of behavior.</li> <li>• No mechanical restraints of any kind can be used.</li> <li>• Only personnel with current and formally documented CPI training can use physical restraint techniques.</li> </ul>

Requirements for Students with Disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>0-4 Incidents:</b> An FBA should be considered after any incident.</li> <li>• <b>5 Incidents:</b> Review the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and revise the student's Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).</li> <li>• <b>6+ Incidents:</b> Review the student's IEP plans at least once every 3 weeks.</li> <li>• <b>Charter School Leader, OPSB, and the Department of Education</b> must receive a report of the incident <u>no later than the following school day</u></li> <li>• <b>LEAs must report all instances where seclusion or physical restraint is used to address student behavior to the LDOE through the special education reporting (SER) system, at least monthly.</b></li> </ul>

Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools must provide board adopted guidelines and procedures on restraint and seclusion to all employees and every parent of a student with an exceptionality.</li> <li>• Schools must post guidelines and procedures on the school's website.</li> <li>• Schools must conduct and obtain appropriate training programs for school personnel designed to address the use of seclusion and restraint techniques with students with disabilities.</li> </ul>

Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parents/legal guardians</b> of a student who has been secluded or physically restrained must be notified of the incident as soon as possible, and given a written report with details of the event <u>within 24 hours</u>.</li> <li>• <b>The school's Director or Supervisor of Special Education</b> must also be notified any time a student with an IEP is secluded or physically restrained.</li> </ul>

Reference(s): La. R.S. 17:416.21, 17:3996(B)(29), BESE Bulletin 1706 §541-543

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*Last Updated July 2018*