

Restraint/Seclusion Issue Brief



Issue Brief

Restraint/Seclusion



Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting

Why support this topic? Seclusion and restraint are highly contentious practices that have led to death, injury, and trauma in children. In 2002, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on states of children who died in restraint. Seclusion should not be used when there is an alternative course of action to physical safety. Even then, restraint should not be used when non-restraint measures would resolve the issue. GAO's report on the use and consequences of physical safety, that is not always the case. The most current data from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) reveals that 12,310 students were subjected to seclusion or restraint during the 2017-18 school year. Of the students restrained or secluded, 78 percent were students with disabilities who were disproportionately students who learned as English Learners and boys. (Committee, n.d.) (GAO, n.d.)

Definition
Physical Restraint
The term "physical restraint" means a corporal punishment that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move his or her arms, legs, torso, or head freely. Physical restraint is a means for controlling that student's disruptive, threatening, behavior during, and extending an instructional session for the school's staff, individual, other individuals, and school staff. (Columbo, n.d.) (Seaton, n.d.)

Seclusion
Seclusion is the unjust confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. (COCOA, 2017) Seclusion does not include a sensory room and does not include a timeout. (Columbo, n.d.) (Seaton, n.d.)



1. Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
2. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
3. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
4. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
5. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
6. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>
7. Florida Department of Education: <https://wwwfldoe.org/programs/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement/earlychildhoodandfamilyengagement.aspx>



Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



What do the terms physical restraint and seclusion mean?

Physical Restraint - The term "physical restraint" means "a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move the individual's arms, legs, torso, or head freely." Physical restraint is a means for controlling that person's movement, reconstituting behavioral control, and establishing and maintaining safety for the out-of-control individual, other individuals, and school staff. (Children, n.d.) (Education, n.d.)

Seclusion - Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving (CRDC, 2017). Seclusion does not include a sensory room and does not include a timeout. (Children, n.d.) (Education, n.d.)

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



History and Information on Related Bills

- Florida Statute 1003.573 addresses widespread concern about the use of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities in public school. The law went into effect on July 1, 2010.
- The law establishes standards and procedures regarding the use, monitoring, documentation, and reporting of seclusion and restraint on students with disabilities.

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



The law establishes three important rights:

- Notification and copies of incident reports.
- Protection against mechanical restraints that restrict a student's breathing.
- Protection against manual or physical restraints that restrict a student's breathing.
- On July 1, 2011 the law was revised to improve monitoring, documentation and reporting. (Florida, n.d.) (Sunshine, n.d.)

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



Why support this topic?

- Seclusion and restraint are highly dangerous interventions.
- Every child should be safe and protected while in school.
- Of the students restrained or secluded, 78 percent were students with disabilities who were disproportionately students who identified as Black/African American and boys.
(Committee, n.d.) (GAO, n.d.)

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



What can you do to reduce restraint seclusion?

- Early childhood interventions.
- Better strategies for challenging behavior.
- Restorative Practices.
- Crisis Management.
- Debrief After Every Crisis.

Improve Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in the School Setting



What's happening with current bills?

- H.R.8782 - Keeping All Students Safe Act was introduced in November 2020. The Keeping All Students Safe Act would make it illegal for any school receiving federal taxpayer money to seclude children and would ban dangerous restraint practices that restrict children's breathing, such as prone or supine restraints. (Congress.Gov., n.d.)

Questions?

