

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Special Education Students	Descriptor Code: 6.500	Issued Date: 03/14/22
		Rescinds: 6.500	Issued: 02/10/03; 12/12/16; 12/14/20

Students with disabilities between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21), inclusive, shall receive the benefit of a free appropriate public education. These students shall be educated with the general student population to the maximum extent appropriate and should be placed in separate or special classes only when the severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes, even with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be accomplished satisfactorily.¹

Eligibility standards and options of service for special education services shall be based upon the criteria specified in state regulations.²

ISOLATION AND RESTRAINT

Students receiving special education services shall not be restrained except as permitted by state law and regulations.^{3,4} Students receiving special education services may be isolated or restrained only in emergency situations. In the event that restraint or isolation occurs, it shall be administered by school personnel who have completed a behavior intervention training program or other school personnel when trained personnel are not immediately available.

When available, an additional staff member will serve as an observer to any act of physical restraint performed on a student to monitor the health and safety of all involved.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The District's Inservice Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for developing/scheduling a training program to certify all school personnel who have completed a behavior intervention training program and who have renewed on a periodic basis. The following components shall be included in the training program:

1. Evidence-based techniques shown to be effective in the prevention of isolation and physical restraint;
2. Evidence-based techniques shown to be effective in keeping both school personnel and students safe when imposing physical restraint or isolation;
3. Evidence-based skills training on positive behavioral interventions and supports, conflict prevention, functional behavior assessments, de-escalation, and conflict management;
4. Information describing state statutes, policies, rules, and procedures on restraint and isolation; and
5. Identification and reporting of abuse and neglect in the school setting.

INCIDENT REPORTING

School personnel who must isolate or restrain a student receiving special education services shall report the incident and the facts surrounding such use according to the Tennessee Department of Education's procedure.⁴

Each school shall maintain all records of isolation and restraint, and semiannually, shall submit a report to the Board that includes the following:

1. The number of incidents involving the use of isolation and restraint since the previous semiannual report;
2. The number of instances in which the school personnel imposing physical restraint or isolation were not trained and certified;
3. Any injuries, deaths, or property damage that occurred;
4. The timeliness of parental notification; and
5. Demographic information to determine whether disproportionate use of these interventions exists.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Director of Schools shall develop administrative procedures to govern the following:

1. Personnel authorized to use isolation and restraint;
2. Training requirements for personnel working with special education students; and
3. Incident reporting procedures.⁴

Legal References

1. TCA 49-10-103(c)
2. TRR/MS 0520-01-09-.01
3. TCA 49-10-1301 *et seq.*
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-09-.23; TCA 49-10-1304

Cross References

- Special Education 4.202
Compulsory Attendance Ages 6.201
Alternative Education 6.319