

Seclusion and Restraint for all Students

[State Rule: 160-5-1-.35](#)

The seclusion of students is prohibited in the Laurens County School System. The use of restraint is limited to those situations in which students are a danger to themselves or others. Prone restraints are prohibited in all situations. Laurens County Schools has adopted the HELP (Human Empowerment and Leadership Principles) program that focuses on maintaining a physically and emotionally safe environment. Training is provided to those staff who are in positions in which they may be called upon to physically restrain students. An update HELP training is provided annually.

A Physical Restraint Incident Report Form should be completed on each incidence of restraint. **Written** notification should be provided to parents within a reasonable time, not to exceed one school day from the use of restraint, when physical restraint is used. A copy of the Physical Restraint Incident Report Form and a copy of the written parent notification should be given to the Principal and the Special Education Director within two school days of the restraint.

Incidences of restraint and the documentation will be reviewed periodically by administration.

- Less restrictive interventions should first be used to de-escalate the behavior and the student should only be restrained when these less intensive interventions prove unsuccessful.
- Restraints should be conducted by staff who are trained in the restraint procedures that have been adopted by the school or program. Staff should know and utilize the prescribed procedures for requesting assistance.
- Adults should carefully observe the student throughout the restraint to observe the student's physical status and to determine when the child is no longer a danger to himself/herself or others. Restraint should be immediately terminated if the child is observed to be, appears to be, or claims to be in severe distress. The student's breathing should be carefully monitored, and the restraint should be immediately terminated if the student is exhibiting any respiratory distress.
- When possible, all potentially dangerous materials such as pencils, pens, or other sharp objects should be removed to ensure the student's safety.
- The restraint should be removed as soon as the student is no longer a danger to himself/herself or others. Generally, students should be restrained for very short periods of time. Additional staff support should be provided and the documentation log should restraints that last for longer periods of time.
- As soon as appropriate after the restraint is removed, the staff should discuss the incident leading up to the restraint with the student and discuss alternative behaviors that could have been utilized.
- When the student is no longer a danger to himself/herself or others, he/she should be returned to the instructional activity or to a less restrictive environment.