

USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION WITH STUDENTS

Every effort should be made to prevent the need to restrain or place students in seclusion. However, the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District (“Corporation”) recognizes that at times it may become necessary for employees to use restraints and/or seclusion when there is an imminent risk of serious physical harm to the student or others. Restraint or seclusion should not be used as a means of punishment, coercion, retaliation, or convenience.

A supportive school environment can greatly reduce, and in many cases eliminate, the need for restraint or seclusion. School staff should model professionalism when a student is escalated and exhibiting dangerous behavior while attempting to meet the student’s needs. The Corporation will use prevention, positive behavioral intervention and support, conflict de-escalation, and crisis intervention training to eliminate or minimize the need for use of restraint or seclusion.

This Policy applies to all students, not only students with disabilities.

Law enforcement officers, including School Resource Officers (SROs) will follow their own procedures and training if it becomes necessary to restrain or hold a student in seclusion.

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop a Restraint and Seclusion Plan to effectuate this Policy.

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District

Adopted: October 14, 2024