



Policy Number: 101-A
Policy Section: 100 – Administration
Effective Date: September 18, 2025

Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) and Corporal Punishment Policy

I. Purpose

This policy ensures the safe, lawful, and ethical use of Emergency Safety Interventions (ESIs) in accordance with Utah Code §53G-8-301 and Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-608. The goal is to protect the physical and emotional well-being of students and staff, while prohibiting corporal punishment and the inappropriate use of restraint or seclusion. This policy is a sub policy of School Safety Policy 101.

II. References

DaVinci Academy Board Safe Schools Policy
R277-608. Emergency Safety Interventions and Prohibition of Corporal Punishment
Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-203- Discipline and Safety
Utah Code Ann. § 53G-8-301- Emergency Safety Interventions

III. Definitions

- A. “Emergency Safety Intervention” (ESI) means the use of physical restraint or seclusion when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others.
- B. “Physical Restraint” means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces a student’s ability to move arms, legs, body, or head freely.
- C. “Seclusion” means involuntary confinement of a student alone in an enclosed area.
- D. “Mechanical Restraint / Chemical Restraint” means prohibited except as allowed by law.
- E. “Key Identified School Employees” means staff designated to receive comprehensive ESI training.

IV. Policy Requirements

- 1. General Use of ESIs:
 - a. May only be used by key identified school employees who have completed required training (i.e. Mandt Training) and understand how to properly use release criterion.
 - b. May only be used when a student poses an immediate danger to self or others and no less restrictive, safe intervention is available.
 - c. Must never be used as a disciplinary measure, punishment, coercion, retaliation, or staff convenience.
- 2. Physical Restraint (See prohibitions in Section V):
 - a. Permitted only to: defend self/others, obtain possession of a weapon/dangerous object, protect from injury, remove a violent student, or protect property when safety is at risk. A



release criterion must be implemented by staff.

b. Must be least restrictive possible and discontinued when the student is no longer a danger or shows signs of severe distress.

c. Maximum duration for physical restraint is 30 minutes, or until law enforcement arrives, or if the student is showing signs of severe distress.

3. Seclusion:

a. Allowed only for students in grade 4 or higher when immediate and significant threat exists, with continuous supervision (line of sight) both visual and auditory, maximum 30 minutes, door unlocked and a criterion for release exists for the student.

b. Not allowed for disciplinary purposes or due to staffing shortages under any circumstance.

c. Debriefing of all witnesses, involved staff members, the student who was secluded, and the parent of the student who was secluded after the conclusion of the seclusion.

d. Any instance of seclusion must be documented immediately and reviewed by the building principal.

V. Prohibitions

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Prone (face-down) or supine (face-up) restraint
- Restraints obstructing breathing or communication
- Mechanical or chemical restraints, unless permitted by law
- Seclusion for students below grade 4
- Any corporal punishment

VI. Considerations for Students with Disabilities

ESI may not be a planned intervention in an IEP unless less restrictive options have been attempted, a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) is conducted, and positive behavior interventions are in place.

Use of ESI for a student with a disability receiving specialized educational services under IDEA or Section 504 shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws, and the district policy.

VII. Training Requirements

1. Foundational Behavior Support Training for all staff supervising students, including de-escalation strategies and LEA ESI policy — within 2 months of hire (30 days if working with a student with disabilities), then bi-annually.

2. Comprehensive ESI Training for key identified employees, including safe restraint/seclusion use and documentation — before authorization and annually thereafter.



VIII. Notification and Documentation

1. Parent Notification: Immediate, not to exceed 15 minutes after an ESI is administered.
2. Administrator Notification: As soon as reasonably possible and before student leaves school.
3. Written Documentation: Completed in SIS same day, shared with parents within 24 hours, and submitted to ESI Committee, as required by USBE Rule R277-608.
4. Parents may request documentation and a meeting to review ESI use. Parents will be notified within 48 hours that they can request documentation. School will debrief with the parent and relevant staff following all ESI Events (restraint or seclusion).

IX. ESI Committee

Membership of this committee will consist of two school administrators, one parent appointed by the LEA leadership, and two additional licensed educators with behavior training and knowledge in state rules and school policies.

The committee will meet often enough to monitor the use of ESI's in the LEA. The committee will have the chief function to review ESI incidents, recommend staff training, and address concerns. The committee will ensure that DaVinci Academy complies with their annual submission of ESI data to USBE, including incident details, demographics, and staff training completion.

X. Corporal Punishment Provisions

1. Corporal Punishment is defined as the deliberate infliction of physical pain by hitting, paddling, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force used as a means of discipline. **Corporal punishment** does not include physical pain caused by reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training.
2. Corporal punishment is strictly prohibited at DaVinci Academy.
3. Any employee found in violation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, and may be referred to law enforcement or UPPAC if appropriate.
4. Parents may file a grievance regarding corporal punishment concerns through the school's grievance and appeal process, which will be addressed promptly by the Executive Administrator and/or DaVinci Academy Board of Directors.

XI. Violations

Any violation of this policy will result in prompt corrective action, including administrative discipline, reporting to law enforcement, and referral to Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) when required.