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532 USE OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, PEACE OFFICERS AND CRISIS TEAMS TO REMOVE STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the appropriate use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove, if necessary, a student with an individualized education program (IEP) from school grounds.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district is committed to promoting positive learning environments that are safe for all members of the school community and designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners. It further believes that students are the first priority and that they should be reasonably protected from physical or emotional harm at all school locations and during all school activities.

All students, including those with IEPs, are subject to the terms of the school district's discipline policy. Building level administrators have the leadership responsibility to maintain a safe, secure, and orderly educational environment within which learning can occur. Corrective action to discipline a student and/or modify a student's behavior will be taken by staff when a student's behavior violates the school district's discipline policy.

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which, in the judgment of school personnel, may cause physical injury to themselves or others the student may be removed from school grounds in accordance with this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the meaning given them in this section:

A. "Crisis team" means a group of persons, which may include teachers and non-teaching school personnel, selected by the building administrator in each school building who have received crisis intervention training and are responsible for becoming actively involved with resolving crises. The building administrator or designee shall serve as the leader of the crisis team.

B. "Emergency" means a situation in which immediate intervention is necessary to protect a student or other individual from physical injury.

C. "Peace officer" means an employee or an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision or law enforcement agency who is licensed by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, charged with the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of general criminal laws of the state and who has the full power of arrest. The term "peace officer" includes a person who serves as a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police officer, or a state patrol trooper.

D. "Physical holding" means physical intervention intended to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement, where body contact is the only source of physical restraint, and where

immobilization is used to effectively gain control of a child in order to protect a child or other individual from physical injury.

E. The phrase "remove the student from school grounds" is the act of securing the person or a student with an IEP and escorting that student from the school building or school activity at which the student with an IEP is located.

F. "School Resource Officer" is a peace officer who, pursuant to an agreement between the school district and a political subdivision or law enforcement agency, is assigned to a school building for all or a portion of the school day to provide law enforcement assistance and support to the building administration and to promote school safety, security, and positive relationships with students.

G. "Student with an IEP" or "the student" means a student who is eligible to receive special education and related services pursuant to the terms of an IEP or an individual interagency intervention plan (IIIP).

H. All other terms and phrases used in this policy shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary and customary usage.

IV. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

A. Removal By Crisis Team

If the behavior of a student with an IEP escalates to the point where the student's behavior may cause physical injury to themselves or others the school building's crisis team may be summoned. The crisis team may attempt to de-escalate the student's behavior by means including, but not limited to, those described in the student's IEP and/or behavior intervention plan. When such measures fail, or when the crisis team determines that the student's behavior may cause physical injury to themselves or others, the crisis team may remove the student from school grounds.

If the student's behavior cannot be safely managed, school personnel may immediately request assistance from the school resource officer or a peace officer.

B. Removal By School Resource Officer or Peace Officer

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which may cause physical injury to themselves or others the school building's crisis team, building administrator, or the building administrator's designee, may request that the school resource officer or a peace officer remove the student from school grounds.

If a student with an IEP is restrained or removed from a school building or school grounds on two separate school days within 30 calendar days, or a pattern of use emerges the team will meet within 10 calendar days to determine if the student's IEP is adequate or if additional evaluation is needed.

Whether or not a student with an IEP engages in conduct which causes physical injury to themselves or others school district personnel may report a crime committed by a student with an IEP to appropriate authorities. If the school district reports a crime committed by a student with an IEP, school personnel shall transmit copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student for consideration by appropriate authorities to whom it reports the crime, to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the

Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and school district's policy, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

The fact that a student with an IEP is covered by special education law does not prevent state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with an IEP.

C. Reasonable Force Permitted

1. In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, a building administrator, other crisis team members, or the school resource officer or other agents of the school district, whether or not members of a crisis team, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.
2. In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, school resources officers and school district personnel are further prohibited from engaging in the following conduct:
    a. Corporal punishment prohibited by Minn. Stat. § 121A.58;
    b. Requiring a child to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain;
    c. Totally or partially restricting a child's senses as punishment;
    d. Denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, wheel chairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate the child's functioning except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;
    e. Interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under Minn. Stat. § 626.556;
    f. Physical holding (as defined above and in Minn. Stat. § 125A.0941) that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe;
    g. Withholding regularly scheduled meals or water; and/or
    h. Denying a child access to toilet facilities.
3. Any reasonable force used under Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.582; 609.06, subdivision 1; and 609.379 which intends to hold a child immobile or limit a child's movement where body contact is the only source of physical restraint or confines a child alone in a room from which egress is barred shall be reported to the Minnesota Department of Education as a restrictive procedure, including physical holding or seclusion used by an unauthorized or untrained staff person.

D. Parental Notification

The building administrator or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the student's removal from school grounds as soon as possible following the removal.

E. Continued Removals; Review of IEP

Continued and repeated use of the removal process described herein must be reviewed in the development of the individual student's IEP or IIIP.

F. Effect of Policy in an Emergency; Use of Restrictive Procedures

A student with an IEP may be removed in accordance with this policy regardless of whether the student's conduct would create an emergency.

If the school district seeks to remove a student with an IEP from school grounds under this policy due to behaviors that constitute an emergency and the student's IEP, IIIP, or behavior intervention plan authorizes the use of one or more restrictive procedures, the crisis team may employ those restrictive procedures, in addition to any reasonable force that may be necessary, to facilitate the student's removal from school grounds, as long as the crisis team members who are implementing the restrictive procedures have received the training required by Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0942, subdivision 5, and otherwise comply with the requirements of section 125A.0942.

G. Reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

1. Annually, stakeholders may recommend, as necessary, to the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures. The Commissioner must submit to the Legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of seclusion. By January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year, districts must report, in a form and manner determined by the Commissioner, about individual students who have been secluded. By July 15 each year, districts must report summary data. The summary data must include information on the use of restrictive procedures for the prior school year, July 1 through June 30, including the use of reasonable force by school personnel that is consistent with the definition of physical holding or seclusion of a child with a disability.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.67, Subd. 2 (Aversive and Deprivation Procedures)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.094-125A.0942 (Restrictive Procedures for Children with Disabilities)
Minn. Stat. § 609.06 (Authorized Use of Force)
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Permitted Actions)
Minn. Stat. § 626.8482 (School Resource Officers; Duties; Training; Model Policy)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA))
20 U.S.C. § 1415(k)(6) (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA))
34 C.F.R. § 300.535 (IDEA Regulation Regarding Involvement of Law Enforcement)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507.5 (School Resource Officers)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)