

## USE OF SECLUSION AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT IN SCHOOLS

The West Salem School District strives to provide a safe and orderly school environment to promote the individual achievement of students and to preserve the rights of students, employees, and school visitors. Should an event occur, in which a student's behavior presents a clear, present and imminent risk to the physical safety of the student or to others, the School Board authorizes the use of seclusion and/or physical restraint only in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin and federal law.

"Physical restraint" is defined as a restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to freely move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head.

"Seclusion" is defined as the involuntary confinement of a student, apart from other students, in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving.

"Covered individual" is defined as an individual who is:

1. employed by the school board or under a contract with the school board as an independent contractor to provide services for the benefit of a district school, including a charter school;
2. employed by a person under contract with the school board to provide services for the benefit of a district school, including a charter school; or
3. engaged in student teaching under the supervision of an employee or independent contractor of the school board.

This policy applies to all covered individuals, and applies equally to conduct toward regular education and special education students. This policy does not apply to law enforcement officers working in the school district.

The use of seclusion or physical restraint should always be considered the method of last resort; prior to the use of either seclusion or physical restraint, a covered individual should first take all actions appropriate for each given situation. In all situations, a covered individual should use the least restrictive intervention appropriate. If seclusion and/or physical restraint is used with a student at school, the

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principal or designee must, as soon as possible, but no later than one (1) business day after the incident, notify the student's parent of the incident and of the availability of the written report. The District Director of Special Education and Pupil Services shall determine which covered individuals are the most likely to be involved with the use of seclusion and/or physical restraint and will take appropriate steps to train such individuals in the use of non-violent crisis intervention.

LEGAL REF.: Section 118.305, Wisconsin Statutes  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) guidance -  
Addressing the Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint in  
Schools

Section 118.164 (3) (b), Wisconsin Statutes - Removal of Pupils  
from the Class

Section 118.31 (3), Wisconsin Statutes - Exceptions to the  
prohibition of use of corporal punishment

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