

EQA Seclusion and Restraint Policy & Procedures

Organizational Statement

As a matter of philosophy and course, EQA does not use seclusion or restraints on its campus. However, the organization is mandated by law to maintain a policy should the use of seclusion or restraints ever be considered.

Definition

Educators for Quality Alternatives (EQA) adheres to the definitions of seclusion and restraint as defined by Bulletin 1706. 450.

Mechanical Restraint: A Mechanical Restraint is the use of any device or object used to limit a student's freedom of movement. This term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

- adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- restraints for medical immobilization; or
- orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

It also does not include any device used by a duly licensed law enforcement officer in the execution of his official duties.

Physical Restraint: Physical Restraint is using bodily force to limit the movement of a student's torso, arms, legs or head. This term does not include:

- consensual, solicited, or unintentional contact;
- momentary blocking of a student's action if the student's action is likely to result in harm to the student or any other person;
- holding of a student, by one school employee, for the purpose of calming or comforting the student, provided the student's freedom of movement or normal access to his or her body is not restricted;
- minimal physical contact for the purpose of safely escorting a student from one area to another; or
- minimal physical contact for the purpose of assisting the student in completing a task or response.

Seclusion: Seclusion is an involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. This procedure isolates and confines a

student until he or she is no longer an immediate danger to self or others. It may be used on an individual basis for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting. This method must not be used to address behaviors such as general noncompliance, self-stimulation, and academic refusal. Such behaviors must be responded to with less stringent and less restrictive techniques.

Seclusion Room: a room or other confined area, used on an individual basis, in which a student is removed from the regular classroom setting for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting and from which the student is involuntarily prevented from leaving; This term does not include a timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.

Use of Seclusion and Restraints

EQA maintains a safe and respectful campus using research-based restorative approaches, best practices in positive behavior management, and intensive supportive and therapeutic interventions for students with mental health or behavioral disorders.

Seclusion and restraint must not be used as a form of discipline or punishment, as a threat to control, bully, or obtain behavioral compliance, or for the convenience of school personnel

- No student should be subjected to unreasonable, unsafe, or unwarranted use of seclusion or physical restraint
- No student should be placed in seclusion or physically restrained if he or she is known to have any medical or psychological condition that precludes such action, as certified by a licensed health care provider in a written statement provide to the school in which the student is enrolled
- No student should be subjected to mechanical restraints to restrict a student's freedom of movement

School staff are trained annually in Crisis Prevention Intervention by an onsite trained facilitator.

Physical restrained is only used:

- when a student's behavior presents a threat of imminent risk of harm to self or others and only as a last resort to protect the safety of self and others;
- only to the degree necessary to stop the dangerous behavior;
- in a manner that causes no physical injury to the student, results in the least possible discomfort, does not interfere in any way with the student's breathing or ability to communicate with others, and does not place excessive pressure on the student's back or chest or that causes asphyxia; and
- in a manner that is directly proportionate to the circumstances and to the student's size, age, and severity of behavior.

EQA sites do not use mechanical restraints. EQA sites do not maintain Seclusion Rooms and therefore at no time are students placed in seclusion. Should a student pose such a severe and



imminent danger to himself or to others that the staff and school leader do not feel they can keep him safe, despite all therapeutic, CPI, and other interventions, they will call the city Crisis Team. Such calls are extremely rare and are tracked carefully to insure all school-level interventions were used first.

Communication and Reporting

School staff must provide written documentation to the Principal regarding the reason, method and duration of any physical restraint. Parents are notified within 24 hours of the reason, method, and duration of any physical restraint.

Each incident involving a student with an IEP must be reported to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) through the Special Education Reporting (SER) system. This is the responsibility of the Special Education Coordinator.

School staff meet with each student to discuss the circumstances, mediate with those involved, and create a follow up plan. Families are invited to attend these meetings.