

Section 1. Statement of Purpose

1.1 It is the policy of the Marlboro School Board that students not be subjected to the unreasonable use of restrictive behavioral interventions, and that there be a common understanding within the school of appropriate interventions by staff.

Section 2. Definitions

2.1 Purpose. Physical restraint is the use of physical means to reduce or eliminate imminent risk either of harm to a person or of damage to property.

2.2 Use. Physical restraint may be used only when:

- (a) Non-physical interventions would be ineffective or have proven ineffective.
- (b) The student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others.

2.3 Reasonable and necessary force may be used to quell a disturbance, obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person of or within the control of the student, for the purpose of self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property.

2.4 By trained staff. Only staff trained in the proper use of physical restraint as described by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) may apply it, unless no such staff member is available. The school will provide training to an appropriate number of staff and require trained staff to participate in refresher sessions once a year to maintain skills and practice safe techniques of physical restraint.

2.5 Duration. Physical restraint may be used only so long as is necessary for the student to compose him or herself. If the student's behavior remains dangerous after 20 minutes, continued use must be authorized by the principal or designee. If continued use of physical restraint is ineffective, the principal or designee shall contact the student's parents/guardian for assistance, or seek assistance from law enforcement or other emergency service personnel.

2.6 Special circumstances. Except with respect to documentation requirements set forth in Section 3.1, when a student is the subject of an individualized education plan (IEP) or §504 plan addressing, among other things, responses to the student's dangerous behavior, that plan shall take precedence over the guidelines set forth in this policy. A written explanation shall be contained within the IEP or Section 504 plan for any specific deviation from the requirements of this policy.

Section 3. Restrictions

3.1 The use of chemical restraint (the use of medication for the purpose of restraint) or mechanical restraint (physical device used to restrict the movement of a student) shall be prohibited unless explicitly authorized by a physician and approved in writing by the parent/guardian of the student.

3.2 The use of a physical restraint as a means of punishment or as a response to the destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm is prohibited.

Procedure for Documentation of a Restraint

1. The principal or designee shall collect a report from staff involved in a restraint as soon as practicable, but in no event later than one school day after its use. The report shall include at least the following information:
 1. Name of student;
 2. Date of events leading to use of restraint;
 3. Location of events leading to restraint;
 4. Description of events leading to restraint;
 5. Description of student's behavior immediately prior to restraint;
 6. Description of use of restraint;
 7. Name of staff member(s) involved;
 8. Name of witnesses to event;
 9. Time and duration of restraint.
2. The principal or designee shall verbally inform the student's parent/guardian of any physical restraint and the situation which initiated the restraint. The principal or designee shall inform the parent/guardian of any potential consequences as a result of the physical restraint.
3. The principal or designee shall provide the Office of the Superintendent with a copy of the written report of a physical restraint. This documentation must be provided to the superintendent by no later than one school working day after the written report is received by the principal.

Warned: _____

Adopted: 11-7-11