



502.1.4 Use of Physical Restraint

Physical restraint of any student is not a behavioural management strategy; it is a crisis management technique. Physical restraints are not designed to reduce the frequency or severity of negative behaviours but to ensure the safety of students and/or staff. These interventions should only be used in emergency situations where safety is an issue.

Definition

Physical restraint refers to action taken by a staff member that results in the restraint of a student for the purposes of immobilizing the student and subduing unacceptable behavior that jeopardizes safety until such time as there are indications that the student is capable of self-control.

1. Physical restraint shall not exceed that required to control the student and shall be employed only until such time as the student has gained self-control.
2. All restraints must be brought to the attention of the principal or designate and documented by the person involved in the physical restraint.
3. Parents must be informed by a teacher or school administrator.
4. When it is determined that there is a reasonable probability that incidents requiring the use of physical restraint will be repeated, then the following procedures must be followed:
 - 4.1. A Behaviour Support Plan, outlining the use of physical restraint as a crisis management technique within the plan, shall be developed by the multidisciplinary team.
 - 4.2. The plan shall outline when and how physical restraint procedures are to be used.
 - 4.3. The informed consent of the parent/guardian must be obtained in writing prior to the implementation of the plan. This consent may be terminated at any time upon submission of written notice by the parent/guardian. In the event that parental/guardian consent is refused, it may be necessary to excuse or expel the student from school.
 - 4.4. Each plan shall be reviewed on a regular basis by the Director of Student Services. This supervision shall include evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the plan.
 - 4.5. If the principal has concerns regarding the effectiveness or appropriateness of the plan, the Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services, shall be informed.