

NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND CRISIS INTERVENTION POLICY	Approved: 3/25/2015 Updated: 1/24/2024

Policy

North Providence School Department (NPSD) is committed to ensuring that each student enrolled within its schools shall be treated with dignity and be free from unreasonable use of physical restraint, including freedom from prone restraint as a crisis intervention. Physical Restraint should only be used for the purpose of preventing harm or injury to the student or others. A physical restraint must not include procedures that intentionally cause pain, injury, trauma or humiliation. Only the least intrusive physical interaction needed to adequately protect the child or others shall be used. Such physical restraint shall be terminated as soon as the need for protection has ended. Furthermore, physical restraint should not be used for the purpose of changing behavior in situations where no protection from harm or injury is needed.

North Providence School Department has established this policy and procedures for the purposes stated within and to comply with the Physical Restraint Regulations promulgated by the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education and Rhode Island General Law 42-158-1, Freedom from Prone Restraint Act.

NPSD employs CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) and Safety Care Crisis Prevention Training as methods to support students during crisis situations. Consistent with CPI/Safety Care, those methods should be used prior to the use of physical restraint. The intent of these procedures is to ensure that every student participating in the North Providence Public Schools is free from unreasonable and unnecessary physical restraint and that such an intervention is used only in situations to avert harm or injury.

Emergency Situations: Consistent with RI Physical Restraint Regulations (2002), the procedure outlined in this document shall not create a barrier in maintaining a safe school environment and does not limit the ability of school personnel or their agents from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons, or themselves from imminent serious physical harm.

Purpose

North Providence School Department employs the following to promote safety:

- Social and Emotional Learning for All Students: Positive behavioral support systems building wide
- Tier 1, 2, 3 strategies as appropriate to individual school stages of implementation
- Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA): Functional Behavioral Assessments are conducted by qualified personnel consistent with MTSS practices and/or RI Special Education Regulations
- Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIP): Behavioral Intervention Plans are developed in response to Functional Behavioral Assessments consistent with MTSS practices and/or RI Special Education Regulations.

Physical restraint is used only in the following circumstances:

- Non-physical interventions were not or would not be effective; and
- the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to self and/or others; and, where applicable,
- A behavioral intervention plan is already developed for the student and the plan has been fully implemented as specified.

North Providence School Department limits the use of such force to the amount and duration necessary and reasonable to protect a student or another member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious physical harm.

NPSD shall determine a time and method to provide all faculty with training regarding the restraint policy. Such training shall occur within the first month of each school year and, for employees hired after the school year commences, within a month of their employment. Training shall include information on the following:

1. The program's Restraint Policy.
2. Interventions may preclude the need for restraint, including de-escalation of problematic behaviors.
3. Types of restraints and related safety considerations, including information regarding the increased risk of injury to a student when an extended restraint is used.
4. Administering physical restraint in accordance with known medical or psychological limitations and/or behavioral intervention plans applicable to an individual student.
5. At the beginning of each school year, the principal of each school and/or his/her designee shall identify staff that are authorized to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint and crisis interventions.

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