

1 General

1.1 For the purposes of this policy:

- Physical Restraint means the use of physical force to restrict a student's freedom of movement.
- Seclusion means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving.

1.2 The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe, caring and orderly learning and working environment for all students and staff.

1.3 The Board affirms that student behaviour interventions shall emphasize prevention, de-escalation, and positive behaviour supports. Every reasonable effort is to be made to use proactive strategies that reduce or eliminate the need for physical restraint or seclusion.

1.4 The Board recognizes that respect for student dignity, protection of student rights, and the safety of all individuals involved is paramount. Any use of physical restraint or seclusion must respect the student's dignity and take into account the student's individual needs and circumstances.

1.5 Physical restraint or seclusion may be used only as an emergency measure when a student's behaviour poses an immediate risk of serious physical harm to themselves or others, or when less intrusive interventions have been unsuccessful or are not feasible. Any intervention must be proportionate, the least restrictive option available, and used only for the shortest duration necessary to ensure safety.

1.6 Physical restraint and seclusion shall not be used for discipline, punishment, staff convenience, or as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioural supports.

1.7 Staff who work directly with students where there is a foreseeable risk of serious physical harm shall receive training in approved, safe physical intervention practices.

2 Authorization

2.1 The superintendent is responsible for establishing protocols governing the use, documentation, reporting and review of physical restraint and seclusion.