

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

PREAMBLE

The Burnaby Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, respectful and positive learning environment for all students and staff. Positive and least restrictive approaches in the provision of student supports are best practice. Every effort is made to structure learning environments and provide learning supports that make physical restraint and seclusion unnecessary. It is expected that school personnel implement effective supports and interventions to prevent and de-escalate potentially unsafe situations. In the event that restraint or seclusion is deemed necessary, steps in the Safety Response Plan as outlined in Policy #5.10 page 5 Behavioural Risk Assessment & Safety Response Planning will be followed to ensure an appropriate, caring, and respectful response to escalating behaviours until which time the student has been able to self-regulate and/or is in instructional control.

POLICY

THE BOARD RECOGNIZES THAT PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OR SECLUSION IS USED ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE BEHAVIOUR OF A STUDENT POSES IMMINENT DANGER OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS AND WHERE LESS RESTRICTIVE INTERVENTIONS HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN ENDING IMMINENT DANGER OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM.

REGULATIONS

Physical Restraint involves restricting a student's freedom of movement or mobility. It shall only be used:

1. To ensure the safe evacuation of students and/or school personnel from a location if a student is interfering or blocking access to the available exit.
2. If a student is in the process of actively pursuing others in a manner that constitutes an imminent risk of harm to other students and/or school personnel, and a safe barrier or perimeter cannot be established between the student and others who are at risk.
3. If a student is engaged in self-injurious behaviour that constitutes an imminent risk of harm to self.

Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room, enclosure or space in which the student is physically prevented from leaving. It shall only be used:

1. To safely secure a location, when a student has escalated to a point that constitutes an imminent risk of harm to self or others that serves as a barrier or perimeter to ensure the safety of others who have been evacuated from the area. An adult will be within close proximity and visual and auditory range at all times.

The term seclusion does not apply where a student has personally requested to be in a different/secluded location/space, or when there is pre-designated space written into the Positive Behaviour Support Plan that supports self-regulation.

Date Adopted: 2020-06
Date(s) Revised:

Cross References: Policy 5.10
Statutory: Ministerial Provincial Guidelines –
Physical Seclusion in School Settings
Other: