

APPROPRIATE USE OF SECLUSION/RESTRAINT

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District has a responsibility to ensure that students are treated with respect and dignity in an environment that provides for the physical safety and security of all students and staff. In instances when a student's behavior poses a threat to the safety of him/herself or others, seclusion and/or restraint may be required. It is recognized that in certain situations, emergency safety interventions must be utilized to keep an individual or others safe.

Seclusion is defined in the law as the involuntary confinement of a pupil, apart from other pupils in a room or area from which the pupil is physically prevented from leaving. Seclusion provides for continuous adult supervision of the student in a safe area/room due to out of control/unsafe behavior for no longer than is necessary for the student to regain emotional/behavior control.

Physical Restraint is defined as a restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a pupil to freely move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head. It does not include briefly touching or holding a student's hand, arm, shoulder, or back to calm, comfort, or redirect the student. Whenever possible, restraint should be conducted with a minimum of two staff members present and/or in the line of sight.

Seclusion and restraint for behavior management is used only as an emergency measure and is reserved for those occasions when severely aggressive, combative or destructive behavior places the student or others in imminent danger. Students with a demonstrated need for seclusion and or restraint should have a goal to promote self-control. Seclusion and restraint are to be used by trained school staff only as a last resort when a student's behavior presents an immediate danger to the student and/or others, when other positively based interventions have been unsuccessful, and for the shortest time possible. Verbal threats or noncompliance alone must not result in seclusion or restraint. Seclusion and restraint are not to be used for disciplinary purposes.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 115.787 (2) (i) Wisconsin Statutes
118.305
Wis. Stats 118.164(3)(b)
Wis. Stats 118.31 (3)

CROSS REF.: 447.11-Rule, Guidelines for Seclusion/Restraint

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