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Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

The district shall maintain a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will remain free from unreasonable restraint, restraint devices, isolation, and other uses of physical force. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is intended to address district students. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of restraint or other reasonable force as necessary with adults or other youth from outside the district as allowed by law.

Restraint and isolation may be used on any student when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an "imminent likelihood of serious harm" as defined by RCW 70.96B.010 and Chapter 392-172A WAC and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or district property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. Restraint and isolation will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

Corporal punishment of students is prohibited. Corporal punishment means any act that willfully inflicts or willfully causes the infliction of physical pain, including spanking or striking a student. Corporal punishment does not include:

1. The use of reasonable physical force as described above;
2. Physical pain or discomfort resulting from or caused by training for or participation in athletic competition or recreational activity voluntarily engaged in by a student;
3. Physical exertion shared by all students in a teacher directed class activity which may include, but is not limited to, physical education exercises, field trips, or vocational education projects

The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy, including review, reporting and parent/guardian notification of incidents involving restraint or isolation as required by law. Additionally, the superintendent or designee will annually report to the board on incidents involving the use of force or isolation and restraint.

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Cross reference: Policy 2160	Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504
2161	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
Legal reference: WAC 392-172A	Rules for the Provision of Special Education
WAC 392-400-235	Discipline – Conditions and limitations
RCW 28A.155	Special Education
RCW 28A.600	Students
RCW 9A.16.020	Use of force – When lawful
RCW 9A.16.100	Use of force on children – Policy – Actions presumed unreasonable
RCW 28A.150.300	Corporal Punishment Prohibited – Adoption of policy
RCW 70.96B.010	Definitions