

## PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION OF STUDENTS



### Purpose

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) is committed to ensuring a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all students and staff. The Board further considers positive and least restrictive approaches in the provision of student supports to be best practice. Respect for student rights, maintaining student dignity and the safety of all involved is paramount. This approach is consistent with BC Ministry of Education's ***Provincial Guidelines for Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings***.

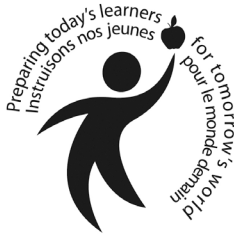
The Board believes that schools should be safe and caring places in which educational programs are carried out in positive and supportive learning environments. Every effort should be made to structure learning environments and to provide learning supports that make physical restraint and seclusion unnecessary. The overarching goal of learning environment design is the creative use of space to facilitate and support positive student learning experiences for all students.

Schools do not support any form of physical restraint or seclusion as an ongoing means of intervention. Any intervention that involves physical restraint or seclusion may only be used in cases of extreme emergency where the physical actions of the student threaten to cause harm to self or others.

### Guiding Principles

1. Behaviour interventions for students must promote the rights of all students to be treated with dignity.
2. Behaviour interventions for all students emphasize prevention and positive behavior supports. Every effort will be made to employ preventative actions that preclude the need for the use of physical restraint or seclusion.
3. Positive emotional and behavioural interventions and mental health supports are provided for all students who need them in a safe and least restrictive environment.
4. Behaviour interventions address the underlying cause and purpose of potentially harmful behaviour.
5. Physical restraint or seclusion is *only* used in extreme emergency where the behaviour of a student poses imminent danger of serious physical harm to self or others, including school personnel, and where less restrictive interventions have been ineffective in ending imminent danger of serious physical harm. Physical restraint or seclusion is discontinued once imminent danger or serious self-harm or harm to others has dissipated.
6. Neither restraint nor seclusion are used as a punishment, discipline, or to force compliance in an educational/learning setting.

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7. Educational assessments, including functional behaviour assessments, are provided for all students whose pattern of behaviour impedes their learning or the learning of others. These assessments inform the development of behaviour intervention plans for students that incorporate positive behaviour interventions and include instruction in strategies to regulate and de-escalate their behaviour.
8. It is expected that schools will include among their staff members, individuals who are trained in restorative practice, conflict de-escalation and crisis de-escalation, and non-violent crisis intervention techniques to enable them to defuse conflict and crisis situations.

**References:**

- *Administrative Procedure to Board Policy 8009: Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students*
- *BC Ministry of Education Provincial Guidelines for Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings*