

TERRELL COUNTY BOARD POLICY
Seclusion and Restraint of Students

Descriptive Code: JGF -2
Date: 3/12/2012
Rescinds Code:
Date Issued:

The Terrell Board of Education shall require that all schools and programs within the district comply with State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.35 concerning “seclusion” and “restraint”, as those terms are defined within the rule.

This policy is not intended to prevent the use of physical restraint in limited circumstances where a student exhibits behaviors that place the student or others in imminent danger and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or less intensive de-escalation techniques. The Terrell Board of Education recognizes that in determining when and how to implement this policy and any procedures related to it, educators will have to exercise their professional judgment and discretion. Therefore, the policy is not to be construed as imposing ministerial duties on individual employees. Further, it is not intended to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel.

The use of seclusion, prone restraint, mechanical restraint, and chemical restraint, as defined in the rule (160-5-1-.35), are explicitly prohibited in all Georgia schools.

Physical restraint may be used in those circumstances where a student is an immediate danger to self or others only after the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions. The use of physical restraint will be immediately terminated once the student is no longer an immediate danger to self or others or if the student is observed to be in severe distress.

The use of physical restraint will require that the following provisions are met:

- Faculty and staff are trained on the use of physical restraint and the school’s applicable policies and procedures.
- Written parental notification will be given within one school day of the use of physical restraint with a student.
- Incidents involving physical restraint will be observed by appropriate school personnel.
- Documentation will be maintained on each incident involving physical restraint.
- All personnel involved in an incident where restraint was utilized will be debriefed by school administration following the event.