

## **Bristol Warren Public Schools Use of Physical Restraint Policy**

### **General Information**

The Bristol Warren Public School District supports a safe environment for all of its students and employees. To that end, this policy ensures that students shall be free from the unreasonable use of physical restraint and crisis intervention. Physical restraint shall only be employed for the purpose of preventing harm to self or others.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure adherence to the *Physical Restraint Regulations of the State of RI (as amended from time to time)*, promulgated by the RI Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-60-4.

### **Required Training For All Staff**

The District currently employs strategies of positive behavior interventions and supports and Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) as its chosen methods of intervention / restraint.

The Superintendent shall designate personnel to ensure that training of all staff, regarding their school's physical restraint/crisis intervention policies, occurs, pursuant to RI Regulation 4.2 as amended from time to time.

### **Procedures and Reporting Requirements**

The Superintendent shall designate personnel to develop written procedures regarding appropriate responses to student behavior that may require the use of physical restraint/crisis intervention. Additionally, reporting protocols and documents shall be established and said procedures and reporting practices shall be reviewed annually by the designated person(s) and revised if necessary, to comply with the *State of RI Physical Restraint Regulations*.

Reporting procedures will include but not be limited to:

1. Timely written reports documenting a restraint
2. Maintaining records of restraints
3. Informing parents in a timely fashion
4. Reporting to RIDE as required
5. Any complaints regarding restraints should be reported, in writing, to Superintendent of Schools.

The complaint(s) shall be promptly investigated and the complainant shall be provided with a response within a reasonable amount of time.

Procedures shall be provided to school staff and made available to parents of enrolled students.

### **Emergency Situations**

It is expected that all employees of the Bristol Warren School District will maintain the highest ethical standards and appropriate self-restraint in their interactions with students.

Neither the RI Regulations cited nor this Policy shall create a barrier however, to maintaining a safe school environment. While they govern the use of physical restraint/ crisis interventions, the Regulations and this Policy do not limit the ability of school personnel or their agents from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from imminent, serious physical harm.

The use of seclusion and chemical restraint is prohibited in public education programs. Physically confining a student alone in a room or limited space without access to school staff shall be considered seclusion. The use of time out procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered seclusion restraint.

ADOPTED: April 25, 2011

Reference: RI Physical Restraint Regulations (September 1, 2002)

Bristol Warren Regional School District, Bristol, Rhode Island