

Restraint, Isolation, and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

ESD 123 will maintain safe learning environments while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students served by ESD 123 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.

ESD 123 staff may use reasonable force, isolation, or restraint to maintain order or to prevent a student from harming him/herself, other students and staff, or property.

Restraint and other uses of physical force, as defined in the procedure accompanying this policy, are reasonable when necessary to prevent or minimize imminent bodily injury to self or others. Restraint and other uses of physical force may be used to protect the student, other students, staff, or ESD 123 property when de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate.

The use of restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force 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 ESD 123 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. The restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

This policy is intended to address students served by ESD 123. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of reasonable force or restraint as necessary with other adults or youth from outside ESD 123 programs as allowed by law.

All parents/guardians of students attending programs operated by ESD 123 will be provided access to this policy. A copy of this policy will be provided to parents/guardians when the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan is created.

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.

First Reading: 08/26/21

Second Reading: 09/30/21

Adoption: 09/30/21

Reference:

[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 28A.155.210 Use of restraint or isolation—Requirement for procedures to notify parent or guardian.](#)

[RCW 28A.600.485 Restraint of students—Use of restraint or isolation specified in individualized education programs or plans developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973—Procedures—Summary of incidents of isolation or restraint—Publishing to website.](#)

[WAC 392-172A Provision of special education services](#)

[Chapter 392-172A WAC – Provision of Special Education Services](#)

Reference Updated: 9/24

Cross Reference:

[Policy 2161 - Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students](#)

[Policy 2162 - Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)