

USE OF RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

Section 1. Statement of Purpose

To ensure the safety of all students, it is the policy of the Harwood Unified Union School District that inappropriate restraint or seclusion shall not be used within the district. The district recognizes that students come to the learning environment with different backgrounds and lived experiences, and specifically recognizes the presence of trauma in the student population. It is the district's intent to create and maintain a positive and safe learning environment, and promote positive behavioral interventions and supports in district schools. This policy is further intended to assist in creating a common understanding within the school district of appropriate interventions by district staff.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that district staff implement programming and training around interventions consistent with this policy, including the elimination of prone/supine restraints in district schools, with the goal of reducing all restraints and seclusion in district schools.

Section 2. Definitions

The following terms are defined in State Board Rule 4500.3 and shall apply to this policy.²

- 2.1 Behavioral Intervention Plan
- 2.2 Chemical Restraint
- 2.3 Functional Behavioral Assessment
- 2.4 Mechanical Restraint
- 2.5 Parent
- 2.6 Physical Escort
- 2.7 Physical Restraint
- 2.8 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- 2.9 Prone Physical Restraint
- 2.10 School
- 2.11 School Personnel
- 2.12 Seclusion
- 2.13 Substantial Risk
- 2.14 Supine Physical Restraint
- 2.15 Student

¹ The State Board Rules do not require adoption of a policy by individual school boards, however the VSBA recommends that boards consider adopting a policy, based on this model, that requires compliance with the Rule 4500 and establishes criteria for the development of administrative procedures to implement practices consistent with the Rule.

² Each of the terms defined in this model policy is defined in State Board Rule 4500.3.

Section 3. Policy

The superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to ensure district compliance with the requirements of Vermont State Board of Education Rule 4500 as modified by this policy. The administrative procedures shall include at least the following components:

1. Prohibitions against the imposition on students of mechanical or chemical restraints by school personnel and contract service providers.³
2. Prohibitions against the imposition on students of physical restraint in circumstances designated as impermissible by State Board of Education rules.⁴
3. Restrictions on the use of physical restraint and seclusion to circumstances allowed by State Board of Education rules with the exception of Rules 4502.1.1 and 4502.2, including provisions that allow the inclusion of restraint or seclusion as part of a student's individual safety plan only when that plan meets the conditions set forth in State Board of Education rules, and provisions that require the termination of restraint or seclusion, and the monitoring of students subjected to restraint or seclusion, as established by State Board of Education rules.⁵
4. Notwithstanding Vermont State Board of Education Rule 4502.1.1, a prohibition on the use of prone or supine restraint in all district schools.
5. Notwithstanding Vermont State Board of Education Rule 4502.2, a prohibition on the use of seclusion in all district schools, except in situations where physical restraint is contraindicated for a particular student. **The exception for seclusion noted in the preceding sentence shall sunset on June 30, 2024.**
6. Procedures to ensure that only school personnel or contract service providers who are trained in the use of restraint and seclusion are authorized to impose restraint or seclusion unless, due to the unforeseeable nature of the danger of a particular circumstance, trained personnel are not immediately available.⁶
7. Processes to ensure that impositions of restraint or seclusion are reported to school administrators, parents, superintendents and the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education under circumstances and within the time limitations required by State Board of Education rules.⁷
8. Processes to ensure that each school in the district maintains written records of each use of restraint and seclusion in accordance with the requirements of State Board of Education rules.⁸
9. Procedures to ensure that each school in the district implements follow-up procedures that are consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education rules.⁹
10. Annual notification procedures to ensure that each school in the district informs school personnel and parents of students enrolled in the school of the policies and procedures pertaining to the use of physical restraint and seclusion, and the intent of the school to

³ See Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices Rule 4501.1.

⁴ See SBE Rule 4501.2.

⁵ See SBE Rule 4502.

⁶ See SBE Rules 4502.3 and 4502.4.

⁷ See SBE Rule 4503.

⁸ See SBE Rule 4504.

⁹ See SBE Rule 4505.

emphasize the use of positive behavioral interventions as well as supports and its intention to avoid the use of physical restraint or seclusion to address targeted student behavior.¹⁰

11. Processes for the filing, investigation and resolution of complaints by school personnel or parents regarding the use of restraint or seclusion, including the designation of school officials who are authorized to receive complaints. The procedures for resolving complaints shall require that any complaint regarding the use of restraint or seclusion is investigated and written findings are issued within thirty (30) days of the complaint's receipt. If a complaint regarding the use of restraint or seclusion is unresolved at the school building level, it shall be directed to the superintendent in accordance with the complaint processes established by the Board in Policy C7: General Complaints.¹¹

Section 4. Implementation

The superintendent shall ensure that appropriate staff are provided training by programs recommended by the Vermont Agency of Education unless a plan is submitted to the Secretary of Education demonstrating how a training program not recommended by the Agency of Education contains the elements required of recommended programs and meets the purposes of the State Board of Education rules on restraint and seclusion.¹² The superintendent shall ensure that appropriate staff are provided training in the ways that this policy imposes standards that differ from the State Board of Education rules on restraint and seclusion.

The superintendent shall annually report to the Board on the implementation of the administrative procedures required by this policy, and shall include any recommendations for changes, if any, related to school district union policies or procedures.¹³

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*HUUSD Board Approval for warning 4-19-2023

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¹⁰ See SBE Rule 4506.

¹¹ See SBE Rule 4507

¹² See SBE Rule 4509, 4510.

¹³ 16 V.S.A. 563 authorizes, but does not require, boards to approve administrative rules and regulations. Likewise, the provision for annual reports from the superintendent in this model policy is not required by state law.

<i>Cross Reference:</i>	<i>C1 Student Records</i>
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