



# RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

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443 Rule 2

## **Staff Use of Physical Force/Corporal Punishment, Seclusion, and Restraint**

The authority of teachers, principals and other school staff is necessary to assure that students are provided with an appropriate learning environment. At times, undesirable behavior makes it necessary to use reasonable force to protect the student or others.

### **Physical Force**

School officials, employees or agents may use reasonable and necessary physical force under the following conditions:

- to quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to any person;
- to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control;
- for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others, or for the protection of property in accordance with state law;
- to remove a disruptive student from school premises, a motor vehicle or a school-sponsored activity;
- to prevent a student from inflicting harm on him/herself; or
- to protect the safety of others.

Incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact designed to maintain order and control may also be used in the District.

### **Corporal Punishment**

**The use of corporal punishment shall be prohibited in the River Valley District.** Corporal punishment means intentionally inflicting or causing to be inflicted physical pain for the purpose of punishment or as a disciplinary action.

### **Seclusion**

Seclusion is defined as the involuntary confinement of a pupil, apart from other pupils, in a room or area from which the pupil is physically prevented from leaving. Generally, the use of seclusion is prohibited in the River Valley School District. Seclusion may be used only if it is a part of a student's IEP.

It does not include:

- In-school suspension;
- Detention;
- Student-requested break;
- Directing a student to temporarily separate him/herself from the general activity to allow the pupil to regain behavioral control; or
- Directing a student to temporarily remain in the classroom to complete tasks while students participate in activities outside of the classroom.

## **Physical Restraint**

Physical Restraint is defined as restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of the pupil to freely move his/her torso, arms, legs, or head.

It does not include:

- Briefly holding a student in order to calm or comfort the student;
- Holding a student's hand or arm to escort the student safely from one area to another when the student is complying with the request to move;
- Intervening in a fight;
- Using protective or stabilizing devices, including adaptive equipment prescribed by a health care professional; using a weighted glove or wide arm cuff to hold one of the student's arms, allowing him/her to refrain from stereotypy and work with the free arm/hand; or
- Other use of reasonable and necessary force under administrative policy.

## **Physical restraint may only be used if all of the following apply:**

1. Less restrictive or alternative approaches have been considered, attempted or been deemed inappropriate.
2. The pupil's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of the pupil or others and it is the least restrictive intervention.
3. Staff certified in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVC) are applying physical restraint in accordance with NVC procedures.
4. The degree of force used and the duration of the physical restraint do not exceed the degree and duration that are reasonable and necessary to resolve the risk.
5. Physical restraint is applied in a humane, safe and effective manner considering known medical or psychological limitations of the student.
6. The restraint does not constitute corporal punishment, which is the intentional infliction of physical pain as a means of discipline.
7. Neither mechanical nor chemical restraints are used.
8. None of the following maneuvers or techniques are used:
  - Those that do not give adequate attention and care to protecting the pupil's head.
  - Those that cause chest compression by placing pressure or weight on the pupil's chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen.
  - Those that place pressure or weight on the pupil's neck or throat, on an artery, or on the back of the pupil's head or neck, or that otherwise obstruct the pupil's circulation or breathing.

## **Staff Training Requirement and Documentation**

The River Valley District has implemented Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training (NVCIT) from the Crisis Prevention Institute. This training meets and/or exceeds all legal requirements for the training components.

1. Seclusion and restraint shall be implemented only by individuals who have a valid training status. Seclusion may only be used if it part of a student's IEP.
2. A non-trained person or person with an invalid training status may use physical restraint on a student only in an emergency and only if a trained individual with a valid status is not immediately available due to the unforeseen nature of the emergency.
3. All building-level administrators, and the pupil services coordinator will be trained in each school building and will maintain a valid training status.
4. The District Office and Special Education Office shall maintain a list of all staff who have completed NVCIT Training and the period of time for which the training is considered valid.

Any time a student is restrained or secluded for safety reasons the following procedural requirements will be followed:

1. A seclusion restraint form will be filled out on the same day of seclusion or restraint is used.
2. The parent is notified of the incident the same day.
3. The form is given to the Pupil Services Coordinator.
4. A copy of the form is sent to the parent.
5. All completed forms are kept in the Special Education Office and used for the annual report to the Board of Education.

An annual report on the use of physical restraint and seclusion will be presented to the Board of Education in accordance with state and federal law.

All state and federal laws pertaining to students with disabilities and IDEA will be followed.

LEGAL REFERENCES: SS 118.31  
118.305  
115.787  
120.13(1)  
120.44  
PI 9, Wisconsin Administrative Code  
IDEA

CROSS REFERENCE: Student, Staff, and Parent Handbooks  
Athletic Code Handbook  
Student Activity Code Handbook  
443 Rule 1 Code of Classroom Conduct  
443 Student Discipline  
443 Exhibit  
411 Rule Discrimination Complaint Procedures  
411.1 Bullying/Harassment  
411.2 Student Harassment/Sexual Harassment  
441 Rule Student Due Process Rights

443.2 Student Conduct on School Buses  
443.3 Drug and alcohol Prohibitions  
443.4 Dangerous Weapons  
443.7 Youth Gangs  
446.2 Student Suspensions/Expulsions  
446.2 – Rule-Expulsion Procedures

APPROVED: March 16, 2015