



PHYSICAL RESTRAINT of STUDENTS  
(STUDENTS)

## **PHYSICAL RESTRAINT of STUDENTS**

Maintaining an orderly, safe environment conducive to learning is an expectation of all staff members of the Marlborough Public Schools. Further, students of the district are protected by law from the unreasonable use of physical restraint. Such restraint shall be used only in emergency situations as a last resort and with extreme caution after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate. Corporal punishment is also prohibited.

Nothing in this policy, M. G. L. c. 71, § 37G, 603 CMR 46.00 prohibits a teacher, employee or agent of the school district from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

The definitions of forms of restraint shall be as defined in 603 CMR 46.02.

The use of mechanical restraint, medication restraint, and seclusion is prohibited.

Physical restraint, including prone restraint where permitted under 603 CMR 46.03, shall be considered an emergency procedure of last resort and shall be prohibited except when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to themselves and/or others and the student is not responsive to verbal directives or other lawful and less intrusive behavior interventions are deemed inappropriate.

The Superintendent will develop:

- Appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention;
- Methods of preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior, and suicide including crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behaviors among groups of students or individuals;
- A Description and explanation of alternatives to physical restraint as well as the school's method of physical restraint for use in emergency situations;
- A Description of the school's training, as well as the procedures to comply with the reporting requirements of 603 CMR 46.06, including, but not limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition;
- Procedures for receiving and investigating complaints;
- Procedures for reviewing data and documentation on the use of physical restraints;
- Methods for engaging parents in discussions about restraint prevention and use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;



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- Guidelines prohibiting: medication restraint, mechanical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted by 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), seclusion, and the use of physical restraint in a manner inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.00; and
- A process for obtaining Building Administrator approval for a time out exceeding 30 minutes.

Each Building Administrator will identify staff members to serve as a school-wide resource to assist in ensuring proper administration of physical restraint. These staff members will participate in an in-depth training program in the use of physical restraint.

In addition, each staff member will be trained regarding the school's physical restraint policy and accompanying procedures in accordance with 603 CMR 46.04(2). The Building Administrator will arrange training to occur in the first month of each school year, or for staff hired after the beginning of the school year, within a month of their employment.

- Physical restraint is prohibited as a means of punishment, or as a response to destruction of property, disruption of school order, a student's refusal to comply with a school rule or staff directive, or verbal threats that do not constitute a threat of assault or imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others.
- Physical restraint is prohibited when it is medically contraindicated for reasons including, but not limited to, asthma, seizures, a cardiac condition, obesity, bronchitis, communication-related disabilities, or risk of vomiting.
- Physical restraint is prohibited as a standard response for any individual student and shall not be included in an individualized education plan (IEP) or individual behavior plan as a standard response.

The use of "time out" procedures during which a staff member continuously observes and remains accessible to the student shall not be considered seclusion.

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Building Administrator, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

ADOPTED:

SOURCE: Adapted from MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37G; 603 CMR 46.00

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