

RESTRAINT, ISOLATION AND OTHER USES OF REASONABLE FORCE

It is the policy of the Nespelem Board of Directors that the district maintain a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will remain free from the 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. District staff may use reasonable force to maintain order or to prevent a student from harming him/herself other students and school staff or property.

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

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 71.05.020 and Chapter 392-172A WAC and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or district 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.

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. Additionally, the superintendent will annually report to the board on incidents involving the use of force.

Classification: Essential

Legal References:

RCW 28A.150.300 Corporal Punishment Prohibited
9A.16.020 Use of Force — When lawful
9A.16.100 Use of Force on Children — Policy — Actions presumed unreasonable
WAC 392-400-235 Discipline — Conditions and limitations
392-172A Rules for the Provision of Special Education

Cross References

2161 - Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Management Resources:

2021 - December Issue

2016 - March Issue

2015 - July Policy Alert

2013 - December Issue

2013 - July Issue

Policy News, December 2008 Use of Reasonable Force Policy

Adoption Date: 04.27.11
Nespelem School District
Revised: 03.24;