# USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION WITH STUDENTS

The District will comply with 281 *Iowa Administrative Code* Ch. 103 for the use of physical restraint and seclusion with students, including, but not limited to:

- Physical restraint and seclusion will be used only by employees who have been trained in accordance with applicable law unless a trained employee is not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the occurrence.
- As soon as practical after the situation is under control, but within one hour after either the occurrence or the end of the school day, whichever occurs first, the school will attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian using the school's emergency contact system.
- The seclusion or physical restraint is used only for as long as necessary based on research and evidence to allow the student to regain control of their behavior to the point that the threat or behavior necessitating the use of the seclusion or physical restraint has ended, or when a medical condition occurs that puts the student at risk of harm. Unless otherwise provided for in the student's written approved IEP, BIP, IHP or safety plan, if the seclusion or physical restraint continues for more than 15 minutes:
    - The student will be provided with any necessary breaks to attend to personal and bodily needs, unless doing so would endanger the child or others.
    - An employee will obtain approval from an administrator or administrator's designee to continue seclusion or physical restraint beyond 15 minutes. After the initial approval, an employee must obtain additional approval every 30 minute thereafter for the continuation of the seclusion or physical restraint.
    - The student's parent or guardian and the school may agree to more frequent notifications than is required by law.
    - Schools and district employees must document and explain in writing the reasons why it was not possible for the employees to obtain approval, notify parents, or take action within prescribed time limits.
    - Schools and district employees who begin and then end use of nonapproved restraints will document and explain in writing the reasons why they had no other option but to use this type of behavior intervention.
- The area of seclusion will be a designated seclusion room that complies with the seclusion room requirements in accordance with laws, unless the nature of the occurrence makes the use of the designated seclusion room impossible, clearly impractical, or clearly contrary to the safety of the student, others, or both; in that event, school must document and explain in writing the reasons why a designated seclusion room was not used.
- An employee must continually visually monitor the student for the duration of the seclusion or physical restraint.
- If an employee restrains a student who uses sign language or an augmentive mode of communication as the student's primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have the student's hands free of physical restraint, unless doing so is not feasible in view of the threat posed.
- Seclusion or physical restraint shall not be used: as punishment or discipline; to force compliance or to retaliate; a substitute for appropriate educational or behavior support; to prevent property damage except as provided in law; as a routine school safety measure; or as a convenience to staff.
- The superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will investigate any complaint or allegation that one or more employees violated any provisions of 281 Iowa Administrative Code Ch. 103. If the District determines a violation has occurred, corrective action will be taken up to and including termination of the employees involved. If the allegation or complaint involves a specific student the District will notify the parents or guardians of the involved student about the results of the investigation. If any allegation or complaint is also defined as abuse in 281 Iowa Administrative Code 102.2 the procedures listed in chapter 102 will apply.
- The District must comply with and implement Chapter 103 whether or not a parent consents to the use of the physical restraint or seclusion.