

## P6-06-009 Management of Student Behaviors/**Restraint and Seclusion**

Henrico County Public Schools believes that every child is **must be** valued and school staff must ensure that children are treated with dignity and respect, and special care. When there is a need to manage aggressive and/or violent student behaviors **which-place the student or others at risk of injury** in emergency situations in the school setting, there must be a balance between practices that **ensure the learning environment that is safe and effective** maintain an effective and, safe, learning environment and those procedures that safeguard the rights and protections of students and staff. When behaviors need special intervention, students shall be free from the unreasonable use of physical restraint and any other intervention methods that may not be the least restrictive intervention. The use of abusive interventions are not authorized, permitted, or condoned in the public schools of Virginia and Henrico County Public Schools. Information shall be provided to all persons working with children within Henrico County on how involving dangerous violent and aggressive student behaviors in emergency situations are to be managed.

**Physical restraint and seclusion may only be used by HCPS School Board staff for the purpose of behavioral intervention in accordance with this policy and the Virginia Board of Education Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia. The School Board encourages the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion.**

School personnel may implement physical restraint/**seclusion** only when other interventions are, or would be, in the reasonable judgment of the school personnel implementing physical restraint/**seclusion** in an emergency situation, ineffective and only to:

1. Prevent a student from inflicting serious physical harm or injury to self or others;
2. Quell a disturbance;
3. Remove a student from the scene of a disturbance in which the student's behavior or damage to property threatens serious physical harm or injury to persons;
4. Defend self or others from serious physical harm or injury; or
5. Obtain possession of controlled substances, paraphernalia, weapons or other dangerous objects that are upon the person of the student or within the student's control.

Physical restraint/**seclusion** shall be discontinued as soon as the imminent risk of serious physical harm or injury to self or others presented by the emergency situation has dissipated.

Nothing in this policy shall be constructed to require school personnel to attempt to implement a less restrictive intervention before using physical restraint/**seclusion** where, in the reasonable judgment of the school personnel in an emergency situation, a less restrictive intervention would be ineffective.

The School Board encourages the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint/**seclusion**.

The superintendent is responsible for developing procedures/regulations to address the requirements of the Virginia Board of Education regulations regarding physical restraint/**seclusion** in public schools.

**The School Board reviews this policy at least annually and updates it as appropriate.**

**Last Revised:      October 2010**

**Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78, 22.1-279.1, 22.1-279.1:1, and**

**8 VAC 20-671-660.**

**8 VAC 20-750-40.**

**8 VAC 20-750-50.**

**8 VAC 20-750-70.**

Refer to Regulation [6-06-009](#), "Guidelines for the Management of Student Behaviors/Restraint and Seclusion."