

When developing local guidelines and procedures each LEA should define what methods of seclusion and restraints may be used in the LEA and how each is managed. The definitions below are included in Bulletin 1706. 450 and must be included in local guidelines.

Mechanical Restraint: A Mechanical Restraint is the use of any device or object used to limit a student's freedom of movement. This term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

- adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- restraints for medical immobilization; or
- orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

It also does not include any device used by a duly licensed law enforcement officer in the execution of his official duties.

Physical Restraint: Physical Restraint is using bodily force to limit the movement of a student's torso, arms, legs or head. This term does not include:

- consensual, solicited, or unintentional contact;
- momentary blocking of a student's action if the student's action is likely to result in harm to the student or any other person;
- holding of a student, by one school employee, for the purpose of calming or comforting the student, provided the student's freedom of movement or normal access to his or her body is not restricted;
- minimal physical contact for the purpose of safely escorting a student from one area to another; or
- minimal physical contact for the purpose of assisting the student in completing a task or response.

Seclusion: Seclusion is an involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. This procedure isolates and confines a student until he or she is no longer an immediate danger to self or others. It may be used on an individual basis for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting.

This method must not be used to address behaviors such as general noncompliance, self-stimulation, and academic refusal. Such behaviors must be responded to with less stringent and less restrictive techniques.

Seclusion Room: a room or other confined area, used on an individual basis, in which a student is removed from the regular classroom setting for a limited time to allow the student the opportunity to regain control in a private setting and from which the student is involuntarily prevented from leaving;

This term does not include a timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.