

Restraint and Seclusion Policy and Procedures

Ohio Connections Academy

Revised 11/4/2015

I. POLICY RATIONALE AND PHILOSOPHY

Ohio Connections Academy (“OCA”) believes that the school environment should be one that ensures the care, safety, and welfare of all students and staff members. Efforts to promote positive interactions and solutions to potential conflict should be exhaustive. Every effort should be made to prevent the use of restraint and for the use of seclusion. A non-aversive effective behavioral system such as Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) shall be used to create a learning environment that promotes the use of evidence-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all students. However, in the event that an individual’s behavior presents a threat of imminent harm to self or others, emergency personnel will be contacted and the use of approved nonviolent crisis intervention de-escalation techniques and strategies to maintain a safe environment will be implemented.

Ohio Connections Academy students receive their education and instruction within their home environment and not within a traditional building/facility. OCA, however, organizes designated events throughout each school year, including but not limited to the following:

- I. Family Engagement Activities (FEAs)
- II. State Testing Time Periods
- III. Face To Face Team Meetings (as requested)
- IV. National Honors Society Ceremony
- V. Graduation Ceremony

During these events, students and staff interact with one another in a face to face environment. Parents/legal guardians are typically onsite during these school based activities to provide additional supervision. An exception to this direct parental/legal guardian supervision, would occur during mandated state testing, where parents/legal guardians may not be present at all times.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- a. Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

A school-wide systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data driven decision making to improve school climate and culture in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes, and increase learning for all students, and; Encompasses a wide range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to reinforce desired behaviors, diminish reoccurrences of challenging behaviors and teach appropriate behavior to students.

b. Physical Restraint

The use of physical contact that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move their arms, legs, body, or head freely. Such term does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint.

In addition, physical restraint does not include brief, but necessary physical contact for the following or similar purposes:

1. To break up a fight;
2. To knock a weapon away from a student's possession;
3. To calm or comfort;
4. To assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist the contact;
5. To prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (i.e. running in front of a car).

c. Seclusion:

The involuntary isolation of a student in a room, enclosure or space from which the student is prevented from leaving by physical restraint or by a closed door or other physical barrier. It does not include a timeout.

d. Time out:

A behavioral intervention in which a student, for a limited and specified time, is separated from the class within the classroom or in a non-locked setting for the purpose of self-regulating and controlling his or her own behavior. In a timeout, the student is not physically restrained or prevented from leaving the area by physical barriers.

Ohio Connections Academy will not utilize physical restraint under any circumstances. If there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no other safe and effective

intervention is possible, emergency personnel will be contacted and the use of approved nonviolent crisis intervention de-escalation techniques and strategies to maintain a safe environment will be implemented.

OCA will not utilize seclusion under any circumstances. In the event that an individual's behavior presents a threat of imminent harm to self or others, emergency personnel will be contacted and the use of approved nonviolent crisis

III. REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION

- a. Any incident where emergency personnel have been contacted, staff should immediately report to OCA administration, Superintendent and the parent/legal guardian.
- b. Any incident where emergency personnel have been contacted, a written report will be made available to the parent/legal guardian within forty-eight hours and maintained by the school, in the student file.

IV. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- a. The school will ensure that an appropriate number of personnel are trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques.
- b. The school will maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided and lists of participants in each training.
- c. All student personnel shall be trained annually on the requirements of this policy, Ohio Adm. Code 3301-35-15, and the school's policies and procedures regarding restraint and seclusion.

V. DISTRICT MONITORING

- a. The school shall monitor the implementation of this policy and the district procedures.
- b. These policies and subsequent procedures shall be accessible on the school's website.
- c. The school shall be responsible for notifying all parents annually of its policies and procedures concerning seclusion and restraint.

VI. COMPLAINT

- a. The school will create a complaint procedure.
- b. Parents/legal guardians will present written complaints to the Principal of the school to initiate a complaint investigation by the school following an incident where emergency personnel were contacted regarding their student.
- c. The school will respond to the parent's complaint in writing within thirty (30) days of the filing of a complaint regarding an incident where emergency personnel were contacted.
- d. The parent/legal guardian of a student with a disability may choose to file a complaint with the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, in accordance with the complaint procedures available concerning students with disabilities.
- e. In accordance with the consent order entered in Doe v. State of Ohio, complaints alleging the improper use of restraint or seclusion on a student with a disability will be investigated by the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children, if the complaint otherwise falls within the procedures concerning state complaints under IDEA as set forth in Ohio Adm. Code Rule 3301-51-05(K) (4)-(6).