

RESTRAINT, ISOLATION AND OTHER USE OF REASONABLE FORCE

It is the policy of Lopez Island School District that the district maintains 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 unreasonable restraint, restraint device, and isolation. 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 school property. Physical force is reasonable when needed to prevent or minimize imminent bodily injury or substantial or great bodily harm to self or others and the learning environment. If de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate, reasonable physical force may be used to protect district property, school staff, or the learning environment.

The use of a restraint device or chemical spray is reasonable only under the following conditions and only when used by authorized and trained district staff after de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate:

- A) If the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent bodily injury or substantial or great harm to self or others; or
- B) To prevent significant property damage.

Physical force, restraint devices, chemical spray or less than lethal devices will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment. This policy is intended to address students enrolled in the district and 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. The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.

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 70.96B.010 and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. 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.

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

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.

Cross References: Policy 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

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

Policy 3247 Isolation and Restraint of Students With IEP's and Section 504 Plans 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 Management Resources: Policy and Legal News, December 2013 WSSDA issues new policy specific to isolation and restraint of students with IEP's and Section 504 plans

Policy No. 3246 Students Policy and Legal News, July 2013 Use of Reasonable Force Policy retitled, revised to include new reporting requirement pursuant to ESSB 1688 Policy News, December 2008 Use of Reasonable Force Policy.

Lopez Island School District
Classification: Priority
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