

## **USE OF REASONABLE FORCE IN RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS (INS-P024)**

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

### **1.0 SCOPE:**

- 1.1 This procedure outlines the process for school personnel to use reasonable force in the restraint of students to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to the student or to another person.

The online version of this procedure is official. Therefore, all printed versions of this document are unofficial copies.

### **2.0 RESPONSIBILITY:**

- 2.1 Chief Academic Officer

### **3.0 APPROVAL AUTHORITY:**

- 3.1 Director of Schools

### **4.0 DEFINITIONS:**

- 4.1 Emergency Situation: Circumstances arising as a result of a child's behavior that poses a threat of bodily harm or death to the student or to another person.
- 4.2 Reasonable Force: The minimum physical force required, lasting for the shortest practicable time possible, to correct or restrain the student and reduce the risk of bodily harm or death to the student or to another person.
- 4.3 Physical Holding Restraint: The use of bodily contact by school personnel with a student to restrict freedom of movement or normal access to the student's body to correct or restrain the student or prevent bodily harm or death to the student or to another person. The most common form of reasonable restraint is firmly holding by wrapping one's arms around the student's body or holding the arms of the student. Such restraint does not include using:
  - 4.3.1 'Chemical restraint' (medication used to restrict a student's freedom of movement),
  - 4.3.2 'Mechanical restraint' (application of a mechanical device, material or equipment designed to restrict the student's freedom of movement),
  - 4.3.3 'Noxious substances' (use of any defense spray or substance to restrict a student's freedom of movement), or
  - 4.3.4 'Life threatening restraint' (use of a restraint that restricts the flow of air into a person's lungs, whether by chest compression or any other means).
- 4.4 School Personnel: Principals, teachers, school bus drivers or other school personnel.

### **5.0 PROCEDURE:**

#### **5.1 Special Education Students:**

- 5.1.1 [SPE-P006](#) Isolation and Restraint Procedures for Students Receiving Special Education Services outlines the process for using restraint for students receiving special education services.

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- 5.1.2 A student receiving special education services may be restrained only in emergency situations.
  - 5.1.3 Special education students should only be restrained by school personnel who have been certified for completing a crisis intervention training program. School personnel not certified in crisis intervention training should only restrain special education students in those situations they assess to be one that may result in bodily harm or death to the student or to another person and no staff member trained in crisis intervention is available to restrain the student.
  - 5.1.4 School personnel who impose restraints or isolation on a student receiving special education services in an emergency situation must report the incident to the school principal or designee as soon as practicable after the incident so that the principal may take action as appropriate in accordance with [SPE-P006](#).

### 5.2 Regular Education Students

- 5.2.1 Teachers, principals, school employees or school bus drivers, in exercising their lawful authority, may use reasonable force when necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to the student or to another person during the conduct of classes and on school buses.
- 5.2.2 School personnel are not permitted to administer corporal punishment as a means of correction or student restraint
- 5.2.3 School personnel may only restrain students when they determine the situation to be of an emergency nature, with circumstances arising as a result of a child's behavior posing threat of bodily harm or death to the student or to another person.
- 5.2.4 School personnel may physically restrain through the use of bodily contact with a student to restrict freedom of movement or normal access to the student's body in an effort to correct or restrain the student or prevent bodily harm or death to the student or to another person. The most common form of reasonable restraint is firmly holding by wrapping one's arms around the student's body or holding the arms of the student.
- 5.2.5 School personnel may use reasonable force, or the minimum physical force required, lasting for the shortest practicable time possible, to correct or restrain the student and reduce the risk of bodily harm or death to the student or to another person.
- 5.2.6 School personnel will not use *unreasonable force* when restraining students. Examples of *unreasonable force* include, but are not limited to:
  - 5.2.6.1 Display of anger through yelling or the use of uncivil language,
  - 5.2.6.2 Slipping, hitting or kicking a child for any reason,
  - 5.2.6.3 Grabbing a student and throwing him or her up against a wall or onto the ground, or
  - 5.2.6.4 Placing hands or arms on or around a student's neck.



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5.2.7 All school personnel, regardless of whether they are certified in crisis intervention training will be familiarized with the basics of using reasonable force in restraint of students as detailed in INS-G004, Using Reasonable Force in Restraint of Students Training Guidelines.

### **6.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:**

- 6.1 [INS-A064](#) Restraint of Students Using Reasonable Force
- 6.2 [INS-A051](#) Isolation and Restraint for Students Receiving Special Education Services
- 6.3 [SPE-P006](#) Isolation and Restraint Procedures for Students Receiving Special Education Services
- 6.4 [INS-G004](#) Using Reasonable Force in Restraint of Students Training Guidelines
- 6.5 [STS-M001](#) CMCSS Student Code of Conduct, Application of Code
- 6.6 T.C.A. § 49-6-4107
- 6.7 T.C.A. § 49-10-13
- 6.8 Tenn. R. & Regs., Chapter 0520-01-09.23

### **7.0 RECORD RETENTION TABLE:**

| <u>Identification</u>       | <u>Storage</u>  | <u>Retention</u> | <u>Disposition</u> | <u>Protection</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Employee Refresher Training | Human Resources | Indefinitely     | Permanent          | HR Training Files |

### **8.0 REVISION HISTORY:**

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Rev.</u> | <u>Description of Revision:</u>                             |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| 7/17/12      | IR          | Initial Release   |
| 12/17/19     |             | Updated logo and associated documents. Not a full revision. |

**\* \* \* E n d o f P r o c e d u r e \* \* \***