

## **PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS**

All schools and programs within the Franklin Public Schools strive to maintain safe learning environments for all students and staff. It is the policy of the Franklin Public Schools that physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations, after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or have been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution in accordance with 603 CMR 46.00 et seq. The use of mechanical restraint, medical restraint, prone restraint unless permitted pursuant to 603 CMR 46.03(1)(b), the use of restraint inconsistent with 603 CMR 46.03, and seclusion is prohibited. The use of “time out” procedures during which a staff member remains accessible to the student shall not be considered “seclusion restraint.”

Notwithstanding the above, in the event of an emergency in which physical restraint is deemed the only appropriate option to prevent injury to students and/or staff, nothing shall preclude a teacher or District employee from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

### **The Superintendent will develop procedures identifying:**

- Methods for preventing student violence, self-injurious behavior and suicide, including individual crisis planning and de-escalation of potentially dangerous behavior occurring among groups of students or with an individual student;
- Methods for engaging parents and students in discussions about restraint prevention and the use of restraint solely as an emergency procedure;
- A description and explanation of the District’s alternatives to physical restraint and the method of physical restraint used by District staff in emergency situations;
- The use of time out as behavior support strategy, including the process for obtaining principal approval of any time-out lasting longer than 30 minutes;
- A description of the District’s procedures for receiving and investigating complaints regarding restraint practices;
- Procedures for conducting periodic review of data and documentation on the District’s use of restraint;
- A description of the District’s physical restraint training requirements; and
- A description of the District’s reporting and follow up procedures in accordance with 603 CMR 46.06, which shall include but not be limited to making reasonable efforts to orally notify a parent of the use of restraint within 24 hours of its imposition and in writing within 3 school working day.

This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be reviewed and disseminated to staff annually and made available to parents of enrolled students. The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Physical Restraint regulations to each Principal, who shall sign a form acknowledging receipt thereof.

ADOPTED:

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37G; 603 CMR 46.00 et seq.  
Reviewed, Revised, Adopted by School Committee: 11/15/16