

## **J-28 SECLUSION & RESTRAINT FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Opelika City Schools shall prohibit the use of Seclusion - a procedure that isolates and confines the student in a separate, locked area until he or she is no longer an immediate danger to himself/herself or others. The seclusion occurs in a specifically constructed or designated room or space that is physically isolated from common areas and from which the student is physically prevented from leaving.

Seclusion does not include: Opelika City Schools shall allow, the following situations: a staff member trained in the use of de-escalation techniques or restraint is physically present in the same unlocked room as the student; time-out as defined below; in-school suspension; alternative school; detention; or a student-requested break in a different location in the room or in a separate room.

Time-Out – A behavioral intervention in which the student is temporarily removed from the learning activity. Time-out is appropriately used when:

1. The non-locking setting used for time-out is appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled.
2. The duration of the time-out is reasonable in light of the purpose of the time-out and the age of the child; however, each time-out shall not exceed 60 minutes
3. The student is reasonably monitored by an attending adult who is in reasonable physical proximity of the student while in time-out.
4. The time-out space is free of objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm

Opelika City Schools shall prohibit the use of Prone Restraint – a student is intentionally placed face down on the floor or another surface, and physical pressure is applied to the student's body that restricts the flow of air into the student's lungs.

Opelika City Schools shall prohibit the use of Chemical Restraint – any medication that is used to control violent physical behavior or restrict the student's freedom of movement that is not prescribed treatment for the student's medical or psychiatric condition.

Opelika City Schools shall prohibit the use of Mechanical Restraint – the use of any device or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body that is intended to restrict the normal freedom of movement and which cannot be easily removed by the student.

Mechanical Restraint does not include: Opelika City Schools shall allow, an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist when used as recommended by the

physician or therapist to promote normative body positioning and physical functioning, and/or to prevent self-injurious behavior. In addition, mechanical restraint does not include seatbelts and other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation.

Opelika City Schools shall prohibit the use of Physical Restraint – direct physical contact from an adult that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement except in those situations in which the student is an immediate danger to himself or others and the student is not responsive to less intensive behavioral interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques. Physical restraint shall not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

Physical Restraint does not include: Opelika City Schools shall allow, limited physical contact and/or redirection to promote student safety or to prevent self-injurious behavior, providing physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill, redirecting attention, providing guidance to a location, providing comfort, or providing limited physical contact as reasonably needed to prevent imminent destruction to school or another person's property.

Opelika City Schools shall utilize the following procedures for use of Physical Restraint:

- a. All physical restraint must be immediately terminated when the student is no longer in immediate danger to himself or others or if the student is observed to be in severe distress
- b. Parents shall be provided, at least annually, with information regarding the policy for use of physical restraint
- c. Staff and faculty training on the use of physical restraint as well as the

Opelika City Schools Seclusion and Restraint Policy.

1. Use of physical restraint
2. Techniques to prevent the need to use physical restraint
3. De-escalation techniques
4. Positive behavioral intervention strategies

5. Maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided and a list of participants for each training

d. Written parental notification when physical restraint is used to restrain their student within one school day from the use of restraint

e. The use of physical restraint shall be documented by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student, in each instance, in which the student is restrained

f. Annual report to the Opelika City Board of Education for:

1. Use and documentation of restraint

2. Any prohibited use of seclusion, chemical, mechanical or physical restraint

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prohibit an employee of Opelika City Schools, any of its schools, or any of its program employees, from any of the following:

a. Use of any other classroom management techniques or approaches, including a student's removal from the classroom, that is not specifically addressed in this policy

b. The rights of school personnel to use reasonable force as permitted under the Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-1-14 or modifies the rules and procedures governing discipline under the Code of Alabama, 1975, §16-28-12.

c. Reasonable actions to diffuse or break up a student fight or altercation

d. Reasonable action to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous objects on a student or within control of a student

e. Discretion in the use of physical restraint to protect students or others from imminent harm or bodily injury. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to create a criminal offense or private cause of action against Opelika City Schools, its programs, or its agents, or employees.

f. In instances in which a student is an immediate danger to himself or herself or others, the

school or program must determine when it becomes necessary to seek assistance from law enforcement and/or emergency medical personnel. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel. Parents must be

g. promptly informed when students are removed from the school or program setting by emergency medical or law enforcement personnel.

This policy adheres to the Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-.02(1)(f) for seclusion and restraint for all students.