

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND CRISIS INTERVENTION

### Prohibitions:

The use of corporal punishment, defined as any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student, is not acceptable in East Dakota Educational Cooperative schools and will not be tolerated as a disciplinary measure.

The use of prone restraint – defined as physical pressure applied to any part of a student's body to keep the student in a face down position on the floor or other surface – by cooperative employees is prohibited except when the use is necessary and reasonable in manner and moderate in degree.

The use of seclusion, defined as involuntary confinement of a student locked alone in a room, is prohibited unless there is a clear and present danger.

### Crisis Intervention:

Physical interventions that are reasonable and necessary for supervisory control over students may be used only as a last resort. Physical interventions shall not be used when less restrictive interventions can successfully maintain the safety of all persons involved in the incident. Physical intervention involves the use of safe and unharmed control and restraint of a student. Physical interventions may be appropriate in the following situations:

- For the purpose of self defense
- To protect other persons from physical injury
- To protect the student from self-injury
- To protect property of the school or of others
- To remove a student if the student has refused to comply with requests to refrain from disruptive behaviors.

Physical interventions shall end as soon as the dangerous behavior ends or a medical condition places the student at risk of harm.

Staff members likely to use physical interventions shall be trained in proper crisis prevention and restraint techniques and procedures. Staff working in residential facilities will comply with training requirements, policies and procedures established by the cooperative and residential facility, as applicable.

### Notification Procedures:

#### **Non residential facility staff**

1. A teacher, support staff or administrator involved must file a written report using a specific incident report form. The report will be filed with the Director.

2. The report shall relate all relevant details of the incident, including date, time and place, what action was taken, why the action was taken, and what measures, if any, had been taken to prevent the need for such actions.
3. The parent/guardian will be notified by the end of the day. If circumstances do not allow that, a letter will be sent.
4. The incident report will be kept on file and made available to the parent/guardian upon request.
5. The parent/guardian will be given an opportunity to confer with the student, staff members, and administrators involved in the incident to discuss the situation.

**Residential facility staff**

Cooperative staff working in residential facilities will follow the notification and documentation requirements of the facility.

This policy will be provided to every new employee and annually thereafter

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