



Please join the Council in supporting HB 210: The Safe Student Act

GOALS

- All schools should be safe for students and school personnel.
- Restraint and seclusion should only be used as emergency crisis interventions.

WHAT IS IT?

- Restraint and seclusion procedures are limited to use only when:
 - Less restrictive interventions were tried and deemed ineffective.
 - The student's behavior poses imminent danger to the safety of her/himself or others.
- The restraint or seclusion shall be discontinued immediately when the student no longer poses a safety threat.
- When using restraint in an emergency situation, schools may not use:
 - Chemical restraint: drugs or medication that restrict a student's freedom of movement.
 - Mechanical restraint: a device that restricts a student's freedom of movement (i.e. physical therapy straps, duct tape).
 - Restraint that restricts breathing.
 - Prone restraint: restraint of a student on their back or stomach as this type of restraint is most often associated with student fatalities.

- When a restraint or seclusion incident occurs, schools must:
 - Notify parents not later than 24-hours
 - Provide a written report for the student's file and parent(s)/guardian
 - Have a review process with staff and parent(s) to follow up and develop a plan to reduce the need for restraint or seclusion in the future.
- All Alaskan school districts must:
 - Develop restraint and seclusion policies and make them available to students, parents, and the public.
 - Annually review restraint and seclusion policies with staff.
 - Annually report the number of restraint and seclusion incidents to the Department of Education and Early Development.
 - Train staff in an approved crisis intervention program.

WHY SHOULD ALASKA DO THIS?

- Restraint and seclusion are not evidence-based educational or behavioral programs, therapies, treatments, or strategies. They are crisis interventions only to be used when there is imminent danger of physical injury.
- In a 2009 survey:
 - 10 of Alaska's 54 school districts reported having *restraint* procedures in place. 44 districts did not have policies.
 - 12 of Alaska's 54 school districts reported having *seclusion* procedures in place. 42 districts did not have policies.
- Implementing this policy would not be cost-prohibitive. The majority of school districts already invest in crisis intervention training for their staff.
 - Out of Alaska's 54 school districts, 20 districts have certified trainers in a crisis intervention program, with 54 trainers currently. These trainers can train and certify other staff.
 - 78% of Alaska's school districts have staff trained in a crisis intervention program, including all five of the largest school districts in the state.
- As of May 2013, 19 states have meaningful protections against restraint and seclusion for all children.

Please support HB 210.