

RESTRAINT, ISOLATION AND OTHER USE OF REASONABLE FORCE

It is the policy of the Finley Board of Directors that the district maintains a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, will remain free from the unreasonable restraint, restraint devices, isolation and other uses of physical force. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is intended to address district students. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of restraint or other reasonable force as necessary with other adults or youth from outside the school as allowed by law.

Use of restraint, isolation and other forms of reasonable force may be used on any student when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an “imminent likelihood of serious harm” as defined by RCW 70.96B.010 and Chapter 392-172A WAC and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another or district property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. The restraint, isolation and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy, including review, reporting and parent/guardian notification of incidents involving restraint or isolation as required by law. Additionally, the superintendent will annually report to the board on incidents involving the use of force.

Cross References: 2162 – Education of Student with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 2161 – Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students

Legal References: RCW 9A.16.020 Use of Force — When lawful
 RCW 9A.16.100 Use of Force on Children — Policy — Actions presumed unreasonable
 RCW 28A.150.300 Corporal Punishment Prohibited – Adoption of policy
 RCW 28A.155.210 Use of restraint or isolation – Requirement for procedures to notify parent or guardian.
 RCW 28A.600.485 – Restraint of students with individualized education programs or plans developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 – Procedures – Definitions. [as amended by SHB 1240]

RCW 70.96B.010 Definitions

WAC 391-172A - Rules for the provision of special education

WAC 392-400-235 Discipline – Conditions and limitations

Management Resources: 2016 – March Issue
 2015 – July Policy Alert
 2013 – December Issue
 2013 – July Issue
 Policy New, December 2008 Use of
 Reasonable Force Policy

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