



# POLICY

**Haddonfield  
Board of Education**

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Use of Physical Restraint

## **5561 USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

The Board of Education strives to provide a safe, caring atmosphere that supports all learners in the least restrictive environment. On occasion, during an emergency, a situation may arise making it necessary to temporarily restrain a student. An emergency is defined as a situation in which the student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious physical harm to the student or others or imminent, serious property destruction.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1, no person employed or engaged in school or educational instruction, whether public or private, shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon a student attending such school or institution. However, any such person may, within the scope of his/her employment, use and apply such amounts of force as is reasonable and necessary: to quell a disturbance, threatening physical injury to others; to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of a student, for the purpose of self-defense; and for the protection of persons or property. Any such acts, as above, shall not be construed to constitute corporal punishment within the meaning and intent of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1.

“Physical restraint” means holding a student or otherwise restricting his/her movements. Physical restraint shall include the use of specific, planned techniques and shall only be used with reasonable limitations by school staff members who shall receive training in the use of physical restraint. Classroom and security interventions should be implemented, when possible, prior to the use of any physical restraint. The use of physical restraint shall be limited to only those circumstances and situations where other interventions are not possible or have been unsuccessful.

A student shall be released from physical restraint immediately upon a determination by the school staff member administering the restraint that the student is no longer in imminent danger of causing harm to him/herself, others, or imminent property destruction. The Principal or designee will notify the parent/legal guardian in the event an emergency existed and physical restraint was used on their child. The student shall be examined by the school nurse after any physical restraint.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1

Adopted: 2/28/2019

BOE Revised Date: 1/24/2019  
BOE Approved Date: 2/28/2019



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## **R 5561 USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT**

### A. Definitions

“Physical restraint” means holding a student or otherwise restricting his/her movements.

### B. Physical Restraint Limitations

Physical restraint shall only be used by a school staff member in an emergency situation with the following limitations:

1. Limited to the use of only the reasonable force needed;
2. Discontinued immediately when the emergency no longer exists;
3. Implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the student and others; and
4. Not deprive the student of basic human necessities.

### C. Physical Restraint Training Requirements

The training requirements on the use of physical restraint shall be as follows:

1. Building level administrators and school staff members designated by the Principal likely to be confronted with the need to use physical restraint shall be trained on the use of physical restraint.
  - a. If, in the event of an emergency, a person(s) who has not received training uses physical restraint, training for the person(s) that used such restraint shall occur within thirty days of the incident.
2. Training must include techniques of prevention and de-escalation, as well as alternatives to physical restraint.
3. Training must include current professionally accepted practices and standards regarding behavior management and use of physical restraint.

### D. Interventions

1. Classroom interventions may include, but not be limited to, the following strategies:
  - a. The staff member may ignore the behavior;



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- b. The staff member may redirect the student to a task with verbal or non-verbal prompts or gestures. Proximity helps, as may the use of gentle humor, when appropriate;
  - c. The staff member shall be clear, polite, and respectful when requesting the targeted behavior. The staff member may make eye contact and tell the student what to do such as “I can’t teach when you are talking, throwing things, ...” or “Please stop and listen, read, write, ...” The staff member should remind the student of consequences and rewards if they comply with the staff member’s request;
  - d. The staff member shall be polite at all times. The staff member may repeat steps a. through c. above and/or quietly give the student adequate wait time. Sometimes if the staff member moves on with the lesson the student may comply after the initial confrontation;
  - e. The staff member may advise the student to proceed to a time-out area in the classroom for a limited time (elementary and middle school); and
  - f. If classroom removal is required, the staff member shall follow school discipline procedures for notification and request for assistance if necessary.
2. Security interventions may include, but are not limited to, the staff member:
    - a. Standing quietly in the doorway and asking the student to accompany the staff member;
    - b. Informing the student of the violation of the school discipline code and procedure and assure the student they have the choice to leave the classroom quietly; and/or
    - c. Using a minimal and gentle hold on arm to remove the student.
- E. Use of Physical Restraint
1. If the student’s behavior reaches the level defined as an emergency, physical restraint may be needed.
  2. If necessary, the staff member may utilize approved physical restraint, using the least amount of force necessary.
  3. If necessary, the staff member shall restrain the student until the emergency no longer exits (i.e. the student stops punching, kicking, spitting, damaging property, etc.).



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4. The staff member shall immediately contact the appropriate administrator and school nurse and complete a written report on the physical restraint the staff member used during the emergency situation.
5. If physical restraint is used, the Principal or designee shall attempt to notify the parent/legal guardian by telephone of the use of physical restraint on the day it occurs and written notification of the incident shall be mailed to the parent within one school day after the use of physical restraint.
6. Written documentation, including the Principal's or designee's report and any staff member's report regarding the incident and the use of physical restraint shall be placed in the student's school file.
7. The use of physical restraint is subject to the following requirements:
  - a. The student must possess a physical risk to him/herself, or others;
  - b. Physical restraint techniques shall consider the student's medical conditions and shall be modified as necessary;
  - c. Staff applying physical restraint shall have been trained in the safe application of physical restraint;
  - d. Students will not be subjected to physical restraint for using profanity or other verbal displays or disrespect, or for non-compliance. A verbal threat will not be considered as constituting a physical danger unless a student also demonstrates a means of or intent to carry out the threat;
  - e. In determining whether a student who is being physically restrained should be removed from the area where the restraint was initiated, the supervising staff should consider the potential for injury to the student, the student's need for privacy, and the educational and emotional well-being of the other students in the vicinity;
  - f. A student shall be released from physical restraint immediately upon a determination by the staff member administering the restraint that the student is no longer in imminent danger of causing harm to him/herself, others, or imminent property destruction; and
  - g. The student shall be examined by the school nurse after any restraint.