

SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT

Seclusion

The following form of Seclusion is prohibited in Ozark City Schools: any 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. 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.

Requirements for Allowing Seclusion

Seclusion is permitted in the following situations in Ozark City Schools:

1. a staff member trained in the use of de-escalation techniques or restraint is physically present in the same unlocked room as the student;
2. time- out as defined below;
3. in-school suspension;
4. alternative school;
5. detention;
6. 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 should not exceed 45 minutes;
3. the student is reasonably monitored by an attending adult who is in reasonable physical proximity of the student and has sight 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.

Chemical Restraint

Ozark City Schools prohibits the use of **Chemical Restraint** as defined below:

– 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.

Mechanical Restraint

Ozark City Schools prohibits the use of **Mechanical Restraint** as defined below:

– 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 seatbelts or other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation

Requirements for Allowing Mechanical Restraint

Ozark City Schools does allow mechanical restraint in the following situation:

1. 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.

Physical Restraint

Ozark City Schools prohibits the use of **Physical Restraint that restricts the flow of air to the student's lungs** as defined below:

– any method (face-down, face-up, or on the side) of physical restraint in which physical pressure is applied to the student's body that restricts the flow of air into the student's lungs.

Ozark City Schools prohibits the use of **Physical Restraint** as defined below:

– 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 behavior interventions including verbal directives or other de-escalation techniques. Physical restraint will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

Requirements for Allowing Physical Restraint

Ozark City Schools does allow limited physical contact in the following situations:

1. Redirection to promote student safety or to prevent self-injurious behavior;
2. Physical guidance or prompting when teaching a skill;
3. Redirecting attention;
4. Providing guidance to a location;
5. Providing comfort;
6. Providing limited physical contact as reasonably needed to prevent imminent destruction to school or another person's property.

Procedures for the Use of Physical Restraint

1. 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.
2. Parents will be provided, at least annually, with information regarding the policy for use of physical restraint.
3. Annual staff and faculty training on the use of physical restraint as well as the Ozark City Schools Seclusion and Restraint Procedures including:
 - 3a. use of physical restraint;
 - 3b. techniques to prevent the need to use physical restraint;
 - 3c. de-escalation techniques;
 - 3d. positive behavior intervention strategies;
 - 3e. maintenance of written or electronic documentation on training provided and a list of participants for each training.
4. Written parental notification when physical restraint is used to restrain their student within one school day of the use of the restraint.
5. The use of physical restraint will be documented by staff or faculty participating in or supervising the restraint for each student, in each instance, in which a student is restrained.
6. An annual report to the Ozark City Schools Board of Education will be provided covering:
 - 6a. documentation of use of restraint;
 - 6b. any prohibited use of seclusion, chemical, mechanical or physical restraint.

Exceptions

Nothing in these procedures shall be construed to prohibit an employee of Ozark City Schools, any of its schools, or any of its program employees, from any of the following:

1. use of any other classroom management techniques or approaches, including a student's removal from the classroom, that is not specifically addressed in this procedure;
2. right 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*.
3. reasonable actions to diffuse or break up a student fight or altercation;
4. reasonable action to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object on a student or within control of a student;

5. discretion in the use of physical restraint to protect students or others from imminent harm or bodily injury. Nothing in these procedures shall be construed to create a criminal offense or private cause for action against Ozark City Schools, or its program, its agents, or employees;
6. in instances in which a student is an immediate danger to himself/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 these procedures shall be construed to interfere with the duties of law enforcement or emergency medical personnel. Parents must be promptly informed when students are removed from the school or program setting by emergency medical or law enforcement personnel.

These procedures adhere to the *Alabama Administrative Code 290-3-1-.02(1)(f)* for seclusion and restraint for all students.