

POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

The Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs' (SECEP) personnel may implement physical restraint or seclusion only when other interventions are, or would be, in the reasonable judgment of SECEP personnel implementing physical restraint or seclusion in an emergency situation, ineffective and only to:

1. Prevent a student from inflicting serious physical harm or injury to self or others;
2. Quell a disturbance or remove a student from the scene of a disturbance in which the student's behavior or damage to property threatens serious physical harm or injury to persons;
3. Defend self or others from serious physical harm or injury; or
4. Obtain possession of controlled substances or paraphernalia or weapons or other dangerous objects that are upon the person of the student or within the student's control.

Physical restraint and seclusion shall be discontinued as soon as the imminent risk of serious physical harm or injury to self or others presented by the emergency situation has dissipated.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require SECEP personnel to attempt to implement a less restrictive intervention before using physical restraint or seclusion where, in the reasonable judgment of the SECEP personnel in an emergency situation, a less restrictive intervention would be ineffective.

SECEP encourages the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports to reduce and prevent the need for the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

The SECEP Executive Director is responsible for developing procedures to address the requirements of the Virginia Board of Education Regulations regarding physical restraint and seclusion in public schools and subject to approval by the SECEP Joint Board.

SECEP will review this policy at least annually and update it as needed.