

ALL PRINCIPALS/APs: Special Education: Guidelines for the Use of Manual Physical Restraint in Special Education (SPED) Programs

Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APs

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [Physical Restraint Technical Assistance Paper.pdf](#)

Information for Principals/APs, SPED faculty and staff members regarding the use of manual physical restraint in special education programs.

- On occasion, students may pose a threat to the safety and security of other students and school personnel. To address these situations, staff members should be mindful of guidelines and procedures relating to the appropriate use of physical restraint.
 - Physical restraint is intended solely to prevent a student from injuring himself/herself or others and should not be applied as a punitive measure.
 - Physical restraint should be implemented only in the event of an emergency situation involving an immediate and significant threat to the physical safety of the student and/or others. It should be applied in a manner that conveys respect for the student and preserves his/her dignity.
 - **Please note, effective immediately, the Safe Crisis Management Prone Bridge Restraint technique is no longer considered the safest and most effective method to restrain students with disabilities that may be subject to physical restraint in accordance with their Individual Education Plan (IEP). (The use of this technique has been addressed in initial and refresher training for Safe Crisis Management.) Accordingly, this technique will no longer be utilized as an approved M-DCPS physical restraint procedure.**
 - The attached document provides additional guidelines regarding the use of manual physical restraint in school districts, including (a) when manual physical restraint may be used (b) who should use it (c) what information should be documented following an incident involving the use of physical restraint (d) parent notification and reporting procedures, and (e) monitoring its use.
 - If you need additional information, please contact Robin Morrison, Instructional Supervisor, Division of Special Education at 305-995-1806.
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