

ADDENDUM

School Board Policy

400 – STUDENTS AND STUDENT SERVICES

454 Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is prohibited in the Anchorage School District. Corporal punishment is defined as the application of physical force to the body of a student for the purpose of discipline. Use of appropriate restraint as set forth in Board policy is not considered corporal punishment.

(Section 454 - Revised June 23, 1986)

(Section 454 – Revised January 12, 2004)

486 Restraint and Seclusion

a. To the maximum extent appropriate, the safety and welfare of students and staff should be secured through positive behavioral interventions. The use of physical restraint and seclusion is prohibited except in emergency situations as set forth below.

b. Physical Restraint

1. Physical restraint means the use of physical strength to significantly restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body. Physical restraint is prohibited unless needed as an emergency response. A District employee may use reasonable and necessary physical restraint to control a student in order to protect the employee, the student, or others from physical injury; to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object from a student; or to protect property from serious damage or destruction.

2. To the extent possible without compromising safety, other interventions should be attempted prior to the use of restraint. Restraint must be limited to that necessary to address the emergency and should be discontinued when the emergency no longer exists. Restraint may not be used as a form of discipline, to force compliance, or as a substitute for appropriate educational support.

3. Physical restraint must be implemented in a manner that protects the health and safety of the student and others. Restraint may not prevent the student from breathing or speaking. Prone or supine restraint, which occurs when the student is placed on his or her stomach or back, is expressly prohibited. A student's well-being must be monitored during restraint.

c. Seclusion

1. Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is prevented from leaving. Seclusion of a student is prohibited unless needed as an emergency response to protect the employee, the student, or others from physical injury; to prevent the use of a weapon or other dangerous object; or to protect property from serious damage or destruction.

2. Seclusion does not include time-outs, a student's voluntary choice to enter a secluded environment, detention or in-school suspension rooms that are utilized for instructional purposes, and other environments where a student is not alone in the room or where the student is not prevented from leaving. "Time-outs" are behavior interventions to provide a student with an opportunity to regain self-control or engage in problem solving where the student is separated from other students for a limited period in a setting that is not locked and from which the student is not physically prevented from leaving. Time-out includes placing a student in an area of the classroom where the student observes classroom instruction but does not participate.

3. Seclusion should be employed only when less restrictive interventions have been determined to be ineffective or inappropriate for maintaining safety. Seclusion should last only as long as necessary to resolve the actual risk of danger or harm, or while awaiting the arrival of law enforcement or crisis intervention personnel. Seclusion should never be used as a form of discipline, to force compliance, or as a substitute for appropriate educational support.

4. While in a seclusion setting, a student must be *continuously* observed by an adult both visually and aurally for the entire period. Students must be provided necessities such as restroom breaks and food and water as needed. Any signs of medical distress should be immediately addressed. Seclusion must be sensitive to any particular vulnerabilities of the student and to the student's developmental level.

d. The parent/guardian of a student who has been physically restrained or secluded shall be notified as soon as reasonably possible. Instances of physical restraint or seclusion shall be documented.

e. The Superintendent or designee shall develop guidelines to implement this policy and shall provide for the training of staff members on positive support interventions, classroom management techniques, and skills to de-escalate student behavior. Training should include the safe use of restraint or seclusion in emergency situations, and procedures for documentation and parent contact. The form of training may vary depending upon the staff member's role and the instructional setting.

f. This policy does not prohibit the inclusion of safe restraint or seclusion in a student's Individualized Education Plan or behavioral intervention plan if determined appropriate

by the IEP team. However, in all instances, the use of physical restraint or seclusion must be in compliance with this policy.

g. This policy is applicable to District employees. It is not intended to limit the use or type of restraint or seclusion by law enforcement personnel, including School Resource Officers, who may need to utilize these methods while on District property.