

Seclusion and Restraint Policy

Indiana Code 20-20-40 et. al. provides for the creation of the Commission on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools, a commission to provide guidance to schools regarding the limited use of either seclusion or restraint. The Commission believes that schools should provide a safe and healthy environment in which Indiana's students can learn, develop, and participate in instructional programs that promote high levels of academic achievement. The purpose of The PATH School's plan is to ensure all scholars and staff are safe in school, and scholars who may have behavior crises are free from inappropriate use of seclusion or restraint.

At The PATH School behavioral interventions for students ensure the right of all scholars to be treated with dignity and respect. All scholars have the right to be free from physical or mental abuse, aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety, and any physical restraint or seclusion imposed solely for purposes of discipline or convenience.

At The PATH School, seclusion or restraint shall not be used as routine school safety measures; that is, they shall not be implemented except in situations where a scholar's behavior or action poses imminent danger of physical harm to self or others and not as a routine strategy implemented to address instructional problems or inappropriate behavior (e.g., disrespect, noncompliance, insubordination, out of seat), as a means of coercion or retaliation, or as a convenience. Any use of either seclusion or restraint shall be supervised, short in duration and used only for the purposes of deescalating the behavior.

1. Every incident in which seclusion or restraint is used, including every incident involving school resource officers, shall be carefully, continuously and visually monitored to ensure the appropriateness of its use and safety of the scholar, other students, teachers, and other personnel;
2. Plans restricting the use of seclusion and restraint shall apply to all scholars, not only students with disabilities;
3. Seclusion or restraint shall never be used as punishment or discipline (e.g., placing in seclusion for out-of-seat behavior), as a means of coercion or retaliation, or as a convenience;
4. Behavioral strategies to address dangerous behavior that results in the use of seclusion or restraint shall address the underlying cause or purpose of the dangerous behavior;
5. Parents or guardians shall be informed of and have access to the plan on seclusion and restraint at The PATH School;
6. Any use of seclusion and restraint, including every incident involving a school resource officer, shall be documented, in writing, with sufficient detail to provide for the collection of specific data that would enable teachers, staff, and other personnel to review seclusion and restraint policies in order implement modifications to the school's plan. Data collected from the use of either seclusion or restraint shall be reviewed at least annually in order to improve prevention, positive behavior intervention and support, and conflict de-escalation techniques in order to avoid the use of seclusion or restraint;
7. The PATH School's Exceptional Learners team, Culture Specialists and Human Services personnel shall be trained in "response to resistance" strategies.
8. The PATH School's designated employees shall be trained regularly on the appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusion, including the use of positive behavioral



intervention and support and conflict de-escalation. At a minimum, the training must include the safe use of physical restraint and seclusion in incidents involving imminent risk of injury to the scholar, school employees, or others.