

**Where can I find out more information about Emergency Safety Interventions (Seclusion and Restraint)?**



**Families Together, Inc.**

Topeka Parent Center- 1-800-264-6343  
topeka@families-together-inc.org

Wichita Parent Center- 1-888-815-6364  
wichita@families-together-inc.org

Garden City Parent Center- 1-888-820-6364  
gardencity@families-together-inc.org



**Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)**

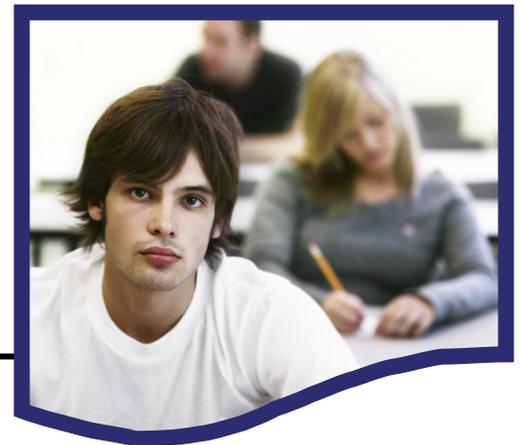
1-866-711-6711  
www.kpirc.org

**Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)**

1-800-203-9462  
www.ksde.org  
www.ksdetasn.org



**A Family Guide to the Use of Emergency Safety Interventions (Seclusion and Restraint) in Kansas**



## What are Emergency Safety Interventions?

Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI) are seclusion and restraint that are used when the student presents a reasonable and immediate danger to self or others.

## What is Seclusion?

Seclusion means placement of a student in a location where all the following conditions are met:

1. the student is **placed** in an enclosed area by school personnel;
2. the student is purposefully **isolated** from other adults and peers; and,
3. the student is prevented from leaving, or the student reasonably believes that such student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.



Time-out is not the same as seclusion. Time-out is when a student is temporarily removed from the learning activity, but is not confined.

## What is Restraint?

Restraint can take form in different ways. **Mechanical restraint** is defined as any device or object used to limit a person's movement. The use of mechanical restraint is prohibited in Kansas except those protective or stabilizing devices ordered by a person appropriately licensed to issue the order for the device. Mechanical restraint used by a law enforcement officer in carrying out law enforcement duties is allowed. Seatbelts and/or other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation are also allowed.

The definition of **physical restraint** is bodily force used to substantially limit a student's movement. The use of prone physical restraint (face-down) and supine physical restraint (face-up) are prohibited. Physical restraint may not obstruct the airway of the student or impact the student's primary mode of communication.

**Chemical restraint** is prohibited in Kansas. A student may take prescribed treatments for a medical or psychiatric condition when they are prescribed by a person who is properly licensed to prescribe medication.

Consensual, solicited, or unintentional contact and contact to provide comfort, assistance, or instruction is not physical restraint.

## Why focus on Positive Interventions?

Positive Interventions help build positive relationships and encourage new behaviors. Positive interventions also reinforce new skills and increase self-satisfaction and optimism among youth, parents and teachers. All students need to be recognized and rewarded when they are meeting the expectations that have been established. Current research suggests positive recognition (rewards, reinforcements, praise) must occur more frequently than negative recognition. A well-developed behavior intervention plan should include many positive interventions in order to effectively change behavior. The first consideration should be the appropriateness of the interventions. The team should select interventions that are based upon the student's developmental level, motor ability, communication mode and other factors relevant to the student and the disability. Environmental and context related factors should also be considered. These might include things such as classroom seating, noise levels, peer issues, instruction that is too hard or too easy, transitions, and changes in the setting.

Behavioral strategies, particularly when implemented as part of a school-wide program of positive behavioral supports, can be used to address the underlying causes of dangerous behavior and reduce the likelihood that restraint or seclusion will need to be used.

*U.S. Department of  
Education Restraint and  
Seclusion: Resource  
Document*

## Replacement Behaviors

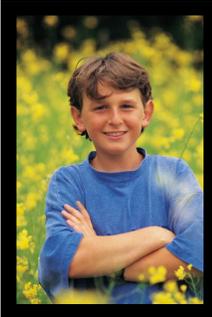
A replacement behavior is when a student replaces an inappropriate behavior with an appropriate one that continues to serve the same function for the student. When selecting replacement behaviors, the team should address the following questions:

- Does the replacement behavior work as well as the challenging behavior in meeting the student's needs?
- Will it be an acceptable alternative to the challenging behavior?
- Will the replacement behavior be something the student will choose to do and that his or her family and teachers support?
- Will the replacement behavior help build a positive reputation for the student?

Students should be recognized and rewarded for choosing to utilize replacement behaviors to be most effective.

## Functional Behavioral Assessments

All behaviors are functional and are maintained in environments that support them. If your child's behavior impedes the learning of self or others, you may consider requesting a functional behavioral assessment. A Functional Behavioral Assessment can help teams determine the when, where, how and why problematic behavior occurs. A comprehensive assessment includes interviews, record reviews, observation and data collection, graphing data collected, testing hypotheses, curriculum analysis, implementation of interventions and evaluation of effectiveness of the plan. Assessments should identify antecedents (what happens just before the behavior occurs), a very clearly defined picture of the behavior that is occurring, and the reinforcers (what happens just after the behavior occurs). If a behavior meets a function for the student, the behavior will continue. Teams need to determine what the function of the behavior is so that they may provide successful interventions or teach replacement behaviors that meet the same function for the student.



## Behavior Intervention Plans

Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) should be positive and instructive and based upon a functional behavioral assessment. A BIP should address:

- The function of the behavior
- Effective teaching of the expected behavior
- Rewards and consequences that are meaningful to the student
- Opportunities to self-manage behaviors

**TIP**

**A functional behavioral assessment can be conducted at any time for a student who does not respond to school-wide behavioral interventions. Following the assessment, a behavior intervention plan may be developed. As a parent, you have the right to request a functional behavioral assessment. Contact Families Together for further assistance.**

## When May Emergency Safety Intervention be Used?

- May only be used when a student presents a reasonable and immediate danger of physical harm to such student or others with the present ability to cause physical harm.
- Less restrictive alternatives, such as positive behavior interventions support, must be deemed inappropriate or ineffective under the circumstances by the school employee witnessing the student's behavior prior to the use of any ESIs.
- The use of ESI must stop as soon as the immediate danger of physical harm ends.
- ESI cannot be used is used for purposes of discipline, punishment, or for the convenience of a school employee.
- A student may not be subjected to seclusion if the student is known to have a medical condition that could put the student in mental or physical danger as a result of seclusion. The existence of this medical condition must be indicated in a written statement from the student's licensed health care provider that is provided to the school and is placed in the student's file. Note that this exception does not apply to restraint.
- Violent destruction of property may also prompt the use of ESI.



## What are the Requirements for Seclusion?



When a student is placed in seclusion, a school employee must be able to see and hear the student at all times.

All seclusion rooms that have a locking door must be designed to make sure that the lock automatically disengages when the school employee watching the student walks away from the seclusion room, or in cases of

emergency, such as fire or severe weather.

A seclusion room must be a safe place with proportional and similar characteristics as other rooms where students frequent. A seclusion room must be free of anything that could be a danger to the student and must be well-ventilated and sufficiently lighted.

## When Must a Parent be Notified an ESI has been Used?

- The school must notify the parent the same day the ESI was used. If the parent cannot be notified, then the school must notify an emergency contact person for the student.
- Documentation of the ESI used must be completed and provided to the parent by the school day following the day on which the ESI was used.
- The parent must be provided with the following information in writing after the first ESI incident in a school year and provided with this information after subsequent ESI incidents through a web address that contains this information:
  - A copy of the standards of when ESI can be used;
  - A flyer on the parent's rights under ESI law;
  - Information on the parent's right to file a complaint through the local dispute resolution process and the complaint process of the Kansas State Board of Education; and
  - Information that will assist the parent in navigating the complaint process, including contact information for Families Together and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas.



## Parent Meeting

After an ESI has been used with a student, the parent may request a meeting either verbally, or in written or electronic form. The school must hold the meeting within 10 school days of the the request, unless the parent is unable to attend within that time period. The focus of the meeting must include discussion of proactive ways to prevent the need for emergency safety interventions and to reduce incidents in the future. If the student has an individualized education program (IEP), the IEP team shall meet to discuss the incident and consider the need to conduct a functional behavioral analysis, develop a behavior intervention plan or amend either if already in existence. If the student has an IEP and is parentally placed in a private school, the meeting shall include the parent and the private school, who shall consider whether the parent should request an IEP team meeting. If the parent requests an IEP team meeting, the private school must help facilitate such meeting. If the student has a 504 plan, the 504 team shall meet to discuss: the incident and consider the need to conduct a functional behavioral analysis, develop a behavior intervention plan or amend either if already in existence; and the need for a special education evaluation. If the student does not have an IEP or 504 plan, the parent and school staff as defined in the ESI statute, shall discuss: the incident and consider the appropriateness of a referral for a special education evaluation; and whether there is a need for a functional behavioral analysis or a behavior intervention plan. In all scenarios, the parent will decide if the student should be invited to the meeting if the student is under 18 years old.



## What Can I Do if I Feel that ESI has been Used Inappropriately with My Child?

If a parent believes that ESIs have been used that violate the ESI statute, ESI regulations, or the district's ESI policy, then the parent may file a complaint through the local dispute resolution process within 30 days of the use of ESI.

A parent may file a complaint through the Kansas State Board of Education's complaint process within 30 days from the date that a parent receives a final decision through the local dispute resolution process or after 30 days have passed since the parent filed a complaint through the local dispute resolution process, if the parent has not received the local board's final decision.



**If your child has a history of seclusion and restraint or challenging behavior, he or she could be eligible for additional supports and interventions. Parents are welcome to contact Families Together, Inc. to discuss possible options.**