

Who is affected by seclusion and restraint practices?

Any child who has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) may be affected by the use of seclusion or restraint practices. Individual school districts make their own policies on the use of seclusion and restraint in classrooms.

What can you do? Where can you get more information about Seclusion and Restraint in schools?

We suggest starting with these resources.

- Your local school district. Request a copy of their policies and procedures.
- WDPI Seclusion/Restraint Guidelines
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/doc/secrestrqd.doc>
- Wisconsin FACETS: 1-877-374-4677
<http://www.wifacets.org/>
- Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction
1-800-441-4563
<http://dpi.state.wi.us/>
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
1-800-928-8778
<http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/>
- Wisconsin Family Ties
1-800-422-7145
www.wifamilyties.org

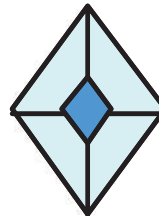
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Seclusion and Restraint

in Wisconsin Schools: Information for Parents



Seclusion and Restraint in Wisconsin Schools

What do Seclusion and Restraint mean?

Seclusion, also called isolation or time-out, is forced isolation in a room or space where the child cannot escape. Seclusion does not include when a child voluntarily takes a break.

Restraint occurs when one person is restrained either by another person or by the use of other restraints, such as straps, blanket wraps, helmets, or other devices to stop movement and/or block the child's ability to hear or see. This also includes placing a child in a chair so the child cannot get free.

Are there laws about Seclusion and Restraint in Wisconsin Schools?

Currently, there is no Wisconsin law that regulates the use of seclusion or restraint in schools. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI), the State agency in charge of public education in Wisconsin, has suggested guidelines dealing with seclusion and restraint. WDPI recommends that school districts follow these guidelines, but cannot require school districts to do so.

What do WDPI Guidelines state that school districts should do?

The following information is taken directly from WDPI guidelines. Remember that these are simply guidelines, not laws.

WDPI Guidelines for Seclusion:

- Seclusion should be a last resort measure and should be explained in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).
- Teachers are to warn students before using seclusion. During a seclusion period, a teacher must tell a student what is happening during seclusion. Criteria should be set by the teacher for ending the seclusion period and constant adult supervision should be maintained.
- Each school district should develop and standardize written procedures or policies.
- An incident report should document the use of seclusion. The incident report should later be used to evaluate whether the use of seclusion was appropriate or achieved the desired result.

WDPI Guidelines for Restraint:

- Use only in an emergency; when there is immediate danger to the student and/or others. The use of "restraint" should be explained in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).
- A teacher must have First Aid and CPR available.
- Teachers are to tell students what will happen during restraint period. A teacher must tell a student what the student is to do during and after restraint is used.
- Restraint should only be used for the period of time that it is necessary.
- Written procedures or policies should be developed and standardized by each school district. Staff should be trained.
- An incident report should document the use of restraint. The incident report should later be used to evaluate whether the use of seclusion was appropriate or achieved the desired result.