

REGULATION

NORTHVALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUPILS

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT
R 5561/Page 1 of 3

R 5561 – USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

A. Definitions

“Physical restraint” means holding a pupil or otherwise restricting his/her movements.

B. Physical Restraint Limitations

Physical restraint shall only be used by a school staff member in an emergency situation with the following limitations:

1. Limited to the use of only the reasonable force needed;
2. Discontinued immediately when the emergency no longer exists;
3. Implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the pupil and others; and
4. Not deprive the pupil of basic human necessities.

C. Interventions

1. Classroom interventions may include, but not be limited to, the following strategies:
 - a. The staff member may ignore the behavior;
 - b. The staff member may redirect the pupil to a task with verbal or non-verbal prompts or gestures. Proximity helps, as may the use of gentle humor, when appropriate;
 - c. The staff member shall be clear, polite, and respectful when requesting the targeted behavior. The staff member may make eye contact and tell the pupil what to do such as “I can’t teach when you are talking, throwing things, ...” or “Please stop and listen, read, write, ...” The staff member should remind the pupil of consequences and rewards if they comply with the staff member’s request;



REGULATION

NORTHVALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUPILS

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT R 5561/Page 2 of 3

- d. The staff member shall be polite at all times. The staff member may repeat steps a. through c. above and/or quietly give the pupil adequate wait time. Sometimes if the staff member moves on with the lesson the pupil may comply after the initial confrontation;
 - e. The staff member may advise the pupil to proceed to a time-out area in the classroom for a limited time (elementary and middle school); and
 - f. If classroom removal is required, the staff member shall follow school discipline procedures for notification and request for assistance if necessary.
2. Security interventions may include, but are not limited to, the staff member:
 - a. Standing quietly in the doorway and asking the pupil to accompany the staff member;
 - b. Informing the pupil of the violation of the school discipline code and procedure and assure the pupil they have the choice to leave the classroom quietly; and/or
 - c. Using a minimal and gentle hold on arm to remove the pupil.
- D. Use of Physical Restraint
1. If the pupil's behavior reaches the level defined as an emergency, physical restraint may be needed.
 2. If necessary, the staff member may utilize approved physical restraint, using the least amount of force necessary.
 3. If necessary, the staff member shall restrain the pupil until the emergency no longer exists (i.e. the pupil stops punching, kicking, spitting, damaging property, etc.).
 4. The staff member shall immediately contact the appropriate administrator and school nurse and complete a written report on the physical restraint the staff member used during the emergency situation.



REGULATION

**NORTHVALE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUPILS**

USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT R 5561/Page 3 of 3

5. If physical restraint is used, the Principal shall attempt to notify the parent/legal guardian by telephone of the use of physical restraint on the day it occurs.
6. The use of physical restraint is subject to the following requirements:
 - a. The pupil must possess a physical risk to him/herself, or others;
 - b. Physical restraint techniques shall consider the pupil's medical conditions and shall be modified as necessary;
 - c. Pupils will not be subjected to physical restraint for using profanity or other verbal displays or disrespect, or for non-compliance. A verbal threat will not be considered as constituting a physical danger unless a pupil also demonstrates a means of or intent to carry out the threat;
 - d. In determining whether a pupil who is being physically restrained should be removed from the area where the restraint was initiated, the supervising staff should consider the potential for injury to the pupil, the pupil's need for privacy, and the educational and emotional well-being of the other pupils in the vicinity;
 - e. A pupil shall be released from physical restraint immediately upon a determination by the staff member administering the restraint that the pupil is no longer in imminent danger of causing harm to him/herself, others, or imminent property destruction; and

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