Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

The first priority of the Kennewick School District Board of Directors is to promote the safety of students and staff while treating all students with dignity and respect. The Kennewick School District’s emphasis is on prevention and de-escalation so that all students in the District, including those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504 plan), may remain free from unreasonable restraint, restraint devices, isolation and other uses of force. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

Restraint, isolation and other uses of reasonable force may only be used on a student, when necessary, to control spontaneous behavior that poses an “imminent likelihood of serious harm” as defined by RCW 70.96B.010. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or District property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. The restraint, isolation and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

Parents of students will be notified should an incident of restraint, isolation, or use of other reasonable force occur. The incident will be reviewed and reported as required by law. In addition, annual reporting will be made, as required by law, by the Superintendent or a designee.

Cross References:  
Policy 2151 Education of Students with Disabilities According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and WAC 392-172  
Policy 2153 Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Legal References:  
RCW 9A.16.020 Use of Force –When lawful  
RCW 28A.155.210 Special Education notification procedure  
RCW 28A.600.485 Restraint of student with individualized education programs or plans developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
RCW 28A.150.300 Corporal Punishment Prohibited  
RCW 28A.600.485 – [as amended by SHB 1240]  
RCW 70.96B.010 Definitions  
WAC 392-172A Rules for the Provision of Special Education  
WAC 392-400-235 Discipline –Conditions and Limitations

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