

Further Information

- The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) report: *School is not Supposed to Hurt*
www.napas.org/sr/SR-Report.pdf

- Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs
Project REST Restraint: Efficacy, Safety, and Training
<http://www.frcdsn.org/rest.html>

- U.S. General Accounting Office report: *Seclusions and Restraints, Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers*
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09719t.pdf>

- South Carolina Department of Education, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Exceptional-Children/PBIS.html>

-OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports, Effective Schoolwide Interventions
<http://www.pbis.org/>

How Do You Contact Us?

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PROTECTION AND
ADVOCACY FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES, INC.

Seclusion &
Restraint
in South
Carolina Schools

Q&A

What is seclusion and restraint?

Seclusion and restraint may be defined as follows:

-Seclusion: involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving.

-Restraint: use of physical force or a mechanical device to immobilize or restrict the ability of the student to move his or her arms, legs, body, or head freely. (This does not include temporary holding of an individual to help him or her participate in education or daily living activities.)

What do we know about the use of seclusion and restraints in schools?

- Children have suffered physical injury, emotional injury, and have died due to seclusion and restraint.

-Seclusion is not an evidence based practice. Meaning there is no data to support its use.

-Many school districts have either minimal or no policies regarding the use of seclusion or restraint.

-Staff administering restraints often have little to no training in either techniques that would avoid the need for restraint or in how to safely use restraint.

-There is a lack of documentation as to when, why, and how long restraints or seclusion rooms are being used in schools.

What has SC done on this issue?

Currently there is no statute or regulation in SC that covers the use of seclusion and restraint in public schools. In 2004 a non-profit organization known as the Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs, formulated a manual of recommended practice known as "Project REST Restraint: Efficacy, Safety, and Training". Project

REST has some helpful recommendations, including advocating for the use of positive behavior support ("PBS") in schools as an effective way to manage behavior without the need for restraint or seclusion.

Unfortunately, the Project REST recommendations are not required. Many school districts have chosen not to follow them.

We want to hear from you!

Seclusion and restraint use in schools is a priority for P&A. Please contact us if:

- Your child is being restrained or secluded at school OR
- If you have experienced problems with your child being restrained or secluded at school.