

# Regulation

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy JK  
Responsible Office: SPECIAL EDUCATION

### STUDENT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS - EXCLUSION, SECLUSION, AND PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to ensure the uniform use of exclusion, seclusion, and physical restraint as forms of student behavior interventions in schools.

#### B. BACKGROUND

In accordance with COMAR, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) is committed to providing a safe instructional environment for all students. In order to achieve this goal, a range of behavior interventions shall be available to staff. Such interventions shall be clearly delineated and progressive in nature ranging from positive behavior interventions to more intensive interventions as outlined below.

#### C. DEFINITIONS

The terms exclusion, seclusion, physical restraint, mechanical restraint, and protective or stabilizing device shall have the meanings ascribed to them in COMAR.

#### D. PROCEDURES

In general, school personnel shall comply with the provisions of COMAR with regard to the use of Student Behavior Interventions.

1. Exclusion of students shall occur only in accordance with COMAR.
  - a. School personnel shall maintain anecdotal records regarding exclusion to contain, at a minimum, the name of the student, the location of the exclusion, the date and start/end time of the incident, and the behavior that prompted the use.
  - b. Placing a student outside the classroom without adult supervision is prohibited.

- c. Each period of exclusion does not exceed 30 minutes. Following each 30-minute period, staff supervising the student will review the ability of the student to return to the classroom environment. Staff will document the attempt to re-engage the instructional program.
  - d. If a student with a disability experiences an excessive period of exclusion, as defined in the student's IEP, it must be handled in accordance with COMAR. If a non-disabled student has experienced excessive exclusion, school personnel must refer the student to the Student Support Team who determines the need for school-based interventions or to initiate a referral to an IEP team. The school personnel shall comply with COMAR.
2. The use of seclusion by AACPS in public school settings is prohibited; however, it may be used for AACPS students placed in MSDE-approved nonpublic settings when documented in the IEP and in accordance with provisions of COMAR.
  3. Physical restraint of students shall occur only in accordance with COMAR.
    - a. Each time restraint is used, school personnel must document the restraint using the AACPS- approved documentation of Student Behavior Interventions/Restraint form. This form documents information in accordance with COMAR. The documentation must be maintained in the student's educational record. Parents will be notified of the use of restraint, in writing, within 24 hours unless otherwise provided for in the student's Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) or IEP.
    - b. In the case of a student with disabilities, if the student's IEP or BIP includes the use of restraint, the IEP or BIP must specify how often the IEP team shall meet to review/revise the student's IEP or BIP. If the student's IEP or BIP does not include the use of restraint, the IEP team shall meet within 10 business days of the incident to consider the need for a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) to consider developing appropriate behavioral interventions, and/or to consider implementing a BIP.
    - c. In the case of a student without disabilities who requires restraint, the student shall be immediately referred to the Student Support Team or the IEP team to determine an appropriate plan of action.
  4. Mechanical restraint of students shall occur only in accordance with COMAR. Mechanical restraint means any device or material attached or adjacent to the student's body that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to any portion of the student's body and that the student cannot easily remove.

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5. Protective or stabilizing devices shall be used only in accordance with COMAR. These devices must be prescribed by a health professional or in accordance with the student's IEP or BIP.
6. When it is determined that one of the above interventions is necessary, school personnel should make every effort to ensure that another adult is present.

*Regulation History:*            *Developed by Superintendent 10/1/05*  
   *Reviewed by Board of Education 12/7/05*  
   *Revised 5/17/10*

*Note previous regulation history:*        *Replaces JK-RA issued 2/15/06*