

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION ON

PROPOSED, REVISED, RENAMED BOARD POLICY

0022-000

STUDENT BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION – USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND EXCLUSION

May 20, 2024

Background Information:

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools. The manual contains policies which are either required by federal and state law and regulation or which are, in the Board's judgment, necessary and appropriate for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate and effective manner.

Discussion:

During the 2022 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB1255 "Physical Restraint and Seclusion - Limitations, Reporting, and Training". This amended and expanded the law governing the use of restraint and seclusion in public schools, prohibiting the use of seclusion in public schools entirely. Maryland State Department of Education released updated technical assistance regarding the use of seclusion and restraint in July of 2023.

In the original drafting of this updated policy, the student support team was surveyed on January 24, 2024 and supported discussions surrounding the policy within the Student Services Meeting on February 5, 2024 and February 23, 2024. This team consists of Bernard Hennigan, Executive Director of Student Services, Colleen Sasdelli, Director of Special Education (SE), Joseph Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, Stephanie Swisher, SE Coordinator of Compliance, Kimberly Heeter, SE Elementary Coordinator, Shannon Holley, SE Secondary Coordinator, Jeffrey Hoffman, SE Coordinator of Technical Assistance, Kimberly Manzo, SE Coordinator of Low Incidence, Robin Meyer, SE Coordinator of Nonpublic Placements and Interagency Supports, Carey Reise, SE Coordinator of Related Services, Melissa Romano, SE Coordinator of Birth to Five, Pauline Timmons, SE Coordinator of State and Federal Grants, Christina Alton, Supervisor of Social Workers, Tammy Bosley, Supervisor of Title I, LaWanda Brown, Supervisor of School Counselors, Gina Re, Assistant Supervisor of School Counselors, Mary Nasuta, Supervisor of Health Services, Steve Richards, Supervisor of Psychological Services, and Buzz Williams, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel.

The draft policy was presented to the Board Policy Review Committee on February 14, 2024. Based on feedback for this meeting, an additional meeting was scheduled on March 12, 2024 to further discuss the policy with Michael O'Brien, Executive Director of Secondary School Instruction and Performance, Buzz Williams, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel, Stephanie Swisher, Colleen Sasdelli, SE Director of SE, SE Coordinator of Compliance, Thomas Smith, Director of Elementary School Instruction and Performance, Joseph Harbert, Director of Health and Wellness, Kimberly Neal, General Counsel, Lauren Driver, Deputy General Counsel, and Diana Rasinski, Administrative Support Coordinator.

Changes to this policy have been made to acknowledge and require compliance with COMAR 13A.08.04 *et seq.* titled “Student Behavior Interventions.” Seclusion is defined and noted to be prohibited from Harford County Public Schools. The policy format has been updated to include purpose, definitions, and statement of policy.

Attachments:

1. Current Board policy entitled 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention
2. Proposed, revised, renamed policy entitled 0022-000 Student Behavior Intervention Policy – Use of Physical Restraint and Exclusion.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board review for possible approval at a future Board meeting the proposed revisions to policy 0022-000.