

## **Ordinance 2025/26-38**

**Section 9-26.2. Statement of Purpose.** — The purpose of this policy is to provide information to all persons working with children within Suffolk Public Schools on how violent and aggressive behaviors of students in emergency situations are to be managed. The policy addresses the division's philosophy, expectations, and procedures for the systematic management of the full range of violent and aggressive behaviors of students. Also, the policy will focus on the processes to occur when extreme behaviors are presented, and the procedures staff must follow to ensure that incidents are properly documented, recorded, and reported to appropriate school officials and parents. The superintendent is responsible for developing procedures to address the requirements of the Board of Education Regulations. Those procedures shall include:

- (1) examples of the positive behavioral interventions and support strategies consistent with the student's rights to be treated with dignity and to be free from abuse that the school division uses to address student behavior, including the appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusion;
- (2) a description of initial and advanced training for school personnel that addresses appropriate use of effective alternatives to physical restraint and seclusion and the proper use of restraint and seclusion;
- (3) a statement of the circumstances in which physical restraint and seclusion may be employed, which shall be no less restrictive than that set forth in 8 VAC 20-750-40 and 8 VAC 20-750-50;
- (4) provisions addressing the
  - (a) timely notification of parents regarding incidents of physical restraint or seclusion, including the manner of such notification. The word "timely" means within the same day and no later than twenty-four (24) hours of restraint or seclusion;
  - (b) documentation of the use of physical restraint and seclusion;
  - (c) continuous visual monitoring of the use of any physical restraint or seclusion to ensure the appropriateness of such use and the safety of the student being physically restrained or secluded, other students, school personnel, and others. These provisions shall include exceptions for emergency situations in which securing visual monitoring before implementing the physical restraint or seclusion would, in the reasonable judgment of the school personnel implementing the physical restraint or seclusion, result in serious physical harm or injury to persons;
  - (d) securing of any room in which a student is placed in seclusion. These provisions shall ensure that any seclusion room or area meet specifications

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for size and viewing panels that ensure the student's safety at all times, including during a fire or other emergency; and

- (e) the appropriate use and duration of seclusion based on the age and development of the student.

B. The School Board reviews this policy at least annually and updates it as appropriate. The superintendent reviews the procedures at least annually and updates them as appropriate. (Adopted March 14, 2013; Ordinance Number 12/13-32; Revised: June 13, 2013; Ordinance Number 12/13-149; Effective Date: July 1, 2013; Ordinance 24/25-46, Revised/Effective: January 16, 2025)

**Legal Authority** – Virginia Code §§ 22.1-16, 22.1-78, 22.1-279.1, 22.1-279.1:1; 8 vac 20-750-40, 8VAC 20-750-50, and 8 VAC 20-750-70.