

THERAPEUTIC RESTRAINT

The Biddeford School Committee hereby authorizes school officials to use therapeutic restraint to the extent permitted by law, and in a manner consistent with state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for developing procedures for the use of therapeutic restraint. This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be reviewed at least annually by the Superintendent or his/her designee, and the Superintendent shall recommend to the School Committee any needed changes in this policy.

For purposes of this policy and any accompanying procedures, the term “therapeutic restraint” shall have the following meanings:

Therapeutic Restraint: Therapeutic restraint is physical restraint of a student for the purpose of preventing that student from injuring him or herself or others, when such restraint is undertaken in accordance with an individualized, written plan that specifically calls for therapeutic restraint. Therapeutic restraint as defined in this policy and any accompanying procedures should be administered by personnel trained in that restraint.

School Personnel should not use as a type of therapeutic restraint any restraint that restricts the free movement of the diaphragm or chest or that restricts the airway so as to interrupt normal breathing or speech of students.

Therapeutic restraint does not include any intervention by any school official that would otherwise be governed by state law on the use of reasonable force (20-A M.R.S.A. § 4009), which includes the use of a reasonable degree of force by school officials against a person who is creating a disturbance, when the official believes that force is necessary to control the disturbing behavior or to remove the person from the scene of the disturbance.

References: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4502(5)(M); Me DOE Reg., ch. 33; 20-A M.R.S.A. § 4009; Maine DOE Commissioner’s Administrative Letter, dated September 10, 2010

Adopted: April 9, 2002

Revised: July 12, 2011