

## **POLICY REGARDING DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS**

The Board of Education recognizes the need to ensure that student participation in learning is free from unreasonable and unnecessary physical restraint and that such an intervention is used only in emergency situations. It is the Board's intention that positive, preventive behavioral supports be proactively employed as a means to significantly limit the need for use of emergency interventions.

This policy is intended to promote student and staff safety and prevent student violence, self-injuries or injuries to others by emphasizing de-escalation of potentially dangerous behavior that may occur with an individual student or among groups of students in an effort to avoid the need for use of emergency interventions. This policy is also intended to ensure that, when emergency interventions are necessary, they are administered in the least intrusive manner possible.

**Emergency intervention** means the use of reasonable physical force when alternative procedures and methods not involving the use of physical force cannot reasonably be employed, in order to:

- (i) protect oneself from physical injury;
- (ii) protect another pupil or teacher or any person from physical injury;
- (iii) protect the property of the school, school district or others; or
- (iv) restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of school or school district functions, powers and duties, if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

Emergency interventions shall be used only in situations in which alternative procedures and methods not involving the use of physical force cannot reasonably be employed. Emergency interventions shall not be used as a punishment or as a substitute for systematic behavioral interventions that are designed to change, replace, modify or eliminate a targeted behavior.

The school must maintain documentation on the use of emergency interventions for each student, which must include:

- The name and date of birth of the student.
- The setting and the location of the incident.
- The name of the staff or other persons involved.
- A description of the incident, including the emergency intervention used and the duration.
- A statement as to whether the student has a current Behavioral Intervention Plan.
- The details of any injuries sustained by the student, the staff or others, as a result of the incident.

The parent of the student must be notified when an emergency intervention has been used with his/her child.

The documentation of emergency interventions must be reviewed by school supervisory personnel, the school nurse and/or other medical personnel, as necessary.

Staff who may be called upon to implement emergency interventions must be provided with appropriate training in safe and effective restraint procedures, as applicable.

### **Prohibition of Corporal Punishment and Aversive Interventions**

No Rochester City School District employee or volunteer shall use or permit the use of corporal punishment or aversive interventions against a pupil.

**Corporal punishment** means any act of physical force upon a pupil for the purpose of punishing that pupil.

**Aversive intervention** means an intervention that is intended to induce pain or discomfort to a student for the purpose of eliminating or reducing maladaptive behaviors.

The Superintendent will implement all regulations as are necessary to accomplish the intent of this policy. The school district shall maintain an ongoing program to train relevant staff in the use of positive, preventive behavioral supports, de-escalation and appropriate use of emergency interventions, when such interventions are necessary.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall review the policy and regulations annually and report applicable data to the Board.

Cross References: Code of Conduct (1400)  
Student Discipline policy (5310)

Adopted August 24, 2017 pursuant to Resolution No. 2017-18: 190.