

SUBJECT: TIME OUT ROOMS AND THERAPEUTIC RESTRAINT

DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: January 2004

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: January 2009

CANCELS POLICY CODE:
REVISION DATE:

JURISDICTION: Poland Regional High School

PHILOSOPHY:

It is the philosophy of the Poland Regional High School Committee that when time out rooms and therapeutic restraint are necessary, they must be implemented in a manner consistent with state law and regulations.

POLICY:

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

For purposes of this policy and any accompanying procedures, the terms “designated time out room” and “therapeutic restraint” shall have the following meaning:

“Designated Time Out Room”

A designated time out room is a room used specifically to isolate a student for the purpose of bringing under control student behavior that is dangerous or presents a risk of significant property damage. Dangerous behavior is behavior that presents a risk or injury or harm to that student or to others and, in the judgment of those involved, cannot be controlled through interventions short of isolation in the designated time out room.

This policy and any accompanying procedures do not apply to interventions such as sending a student to the principal’s office, to any staff member’s room or office, or to any other such setting, but is instead limited to use of a room specifically designated by the Superintendent for the purpose of isolating students as described above. Use of this area to control student behavior must comply with this policy and any procedures developed hereunder.

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“Therapeutic Restraint”

Therapeutic restraint is physical restraint of a student for the purpose of preventing that student from injuring himself / 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.

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 MRSA § 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.

AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

None

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

The Poland Regional High School, School Committee delegates authority for implementation of this policy to the Superintendent of Schools, who may delegate provisions of it to the Director of Special Education.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY:

None

REPORTS:

As specified in JKGA-R, reports of the use of timeout rooms and therapeutic restraint will be kept in the student’s special education file, consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

DEFINITIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

JKGA-R Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint Administrative Procedure

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LEGAL REFERENCES:

20-A MRSA § 4502 (5)(M) and accompanying regulations
20-A MRSA § 4009.

SIGNATURE BLOCK:

Poland Regional High School Committee:

Ike Levine, Chair	DATE
Peter Bolduc	DATE
Jack Conway	DATE
Norman Davis	DATE
David Griffiths	DATE
Karen M. Whalen	DATE
Laurie Levine	DATE