
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1795

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Callan, Santos, Reed, Farivar, Macri, and Leavitt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/27/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to restraint or isolation of students in public
2 schools and educational programs; amending RCW 28A.600.485 and
3 28A.600.486; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to protect
6 students from the physically harmful and emotionally traumatic
7 practices of chemical restraint, mechanical restraint, and physical
8 restraint that interfere with breathing or blood flow. By 2031, it is
9 the legislature's intent to improve the safety and well-being of
10 staff members and students in prekindergarten through 12th grade by
11 banning isolation practices, providing technical assistance, and
12 enhancing the public accountability of school districts and other
13 providers of public educational services.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.485 and 2015 c 206 s 3 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) ~~((The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this~~
17 ~~section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.~~

18 ~~(a) "Isolation" means restricting the student alone within a room~~
19 ~~or any other form of enclosure, from which the student may not leave.~~
20 ~~It does not include a student's voluntary use of a quiet space for~~

1 ~~self-calming, or temporary removal of a student from his or her~~
2 ~~regular instructional area to an unlocked area for purposes of~~
3 ~~carrying out an appropriate positive behavior intervention plan.~~

4 ~~(b) "Restraint" means physical intervention or force used to~~
5 ~~control a student, including the use of a restraint device to~~
6 ~~restrict a student's freedom of movement. It does not include~~
7 ~~appropriate use of a prescribed medical, orthopedic, or therapeutic~~
8 ~~device when used as intended, such as to achieve proper body~~
9 ~~position, balance, or alignment, or to permit a student to safely~~
10 ~~participate in activities.~~

11 ~~(c) "Restraint device" means a device used to assist in~~
12 ~~controlling a student, including but not limited to metal handcuffs,~~
13 ~~plastic ties, ankle restraints, leather cuffs, other hospital-type~~
14 ~~restraints, pepper spray, tasers, or batons. Restraint device does~~
15 ~~not mean a seat harness used to safely transport students. This~~
16 ~~section shall not be construed as encouraging the use of these~~
17 ~~devices)) The provisions of this section apply to all staff members~~
18 ~~of school districts and other providers of public educational~~
19 ~~services, except for staff members who are licensed or certified~~
20 ~~health professionals of an inpatient health care facility. However,~~
21 ~~nothing in this section prohibits a school resource officer as~~
22 ~~defined in RCW 28A.320.124 from carrying out the lawful duties of a~~
23 ~~commissioned law enforcement officer.~~

24 (2) The provisions of this section apply to all students,
25 including those who have an individualized education program or plan
26 developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973. The
27 provisions of this section apply only to incidents of restraint or
28 isolation that occur while a student is participating in school-
29 sponsored instruction or activities.

30 (3) (a) (i) An individualized education program or plan developed
31 under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 must not include
32 the use of restraint or isolation as a planned behavior intervention
33 ~~((unless a))~~ except as provided in this subsection (3) (a) (i).
34 Restraint may be included in such program or plan only if the
35 student's individual needs require more specific advanced educational
36 planning, and the student's parent or guardian ((agrees)) requests
37 the inclusion of restraint. In all cases in which restraint is
38 included as a planned behavior intervention, a licensed health care
39 provider must document in writing that the intervention is medically

1 necessary, and the parent or guardian must provide informed,
2 voluntary written consent.

3 (ii) All other plans may refer to the ((district)) policy
4 developed under ((subsection (3)(b) of this section. Nothing in this
5 section is intended to limit the provision of a free appropriate
6 public education under Part B of the federal individuals with
7 disabilities education improvement act or section 504 of the federal
8 rehabilitation act of 1973)) (b) of this subsection (3).

9 (b) ((Restraint)) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection
10 (3), restraint or isolation of any student is permitted only when
11 reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an
12 imminent likelihood of serious harm((, as defined in RCW 70.96B.010))
13 to the student or to another person, such as another student or staff
14 member. Restraint or isolation must be closely monitored to prevent
15 harm to the student, and must be discontinued as soon as the
16 likelihood of serious harm has dissipated. Each school district and
17 other provider of public educational services shall adopt a policy
18 providing for the least amount of restraint or isolation appropriate
19 to protect the safety of students and staff members under such
20 circumstances.

21 (c) Staff members of any school district or other provider of
22 public educational services are prohibited from using any of the
23 following restraints on any student: Mechanical restraint; chemical
24 restraint; or physical restraint or physical escort that is life-
25 threatening, restricts breathing, or restricts blood flow to the
26 brain, including prone, supine, and wall restraints.

27 (4) Following the release of a student from the use of restraint
28 or isolation, the school district or other provider of public
29 educational services must implement follow-up procedures. These
30 procedures must include: (a) Reviewing the incident with the student
31 and the parent or guardian to address the behavior that precipitated
32 the restraint or isolation and the appropriateness of the response;
33 and (b) reviewing the incident with the staff member who administered
34 the restraint or isolation to discuss whether proper procedures were
35 followed and what training or support the staff member needs to help
36 the student avoid similar incidents.

37 (5) Any ((school employee, resource officer, or school security
38 officer)) staff member who uses isolation or restraint on a student
39 during school-sponsored instruction or activities must inform the
40 building administrator or building administrator's designee as soon

1 as possible, and within two business days submit a written report of
2 the incident to the (~~district~~) office of the school district
3 superintendent or other chief administrator of the provider of public
4 educational services. The written report must include, at a minimum,
5 the following information:

6 (a) The date and time of the incident;

7 (b) The name and job title of the (~~individual~~) staff member who
8 administered the restraint or isolation;

9 (c) A description of the activity that led to the restraint or
10 isolation;

11 (d) The type of restraint or isolation used on the student,
12 including the duration;

13 (e) Whether the student or staff (~~was~~) members were physically
14 injured during the restraint or isolation incident and any medical
15 care provided; and

16 (f) Any recommendations for changing the nature or amount of
17 resources available to the student and staff members in order to
18 avoid similar incidents.

19 (6) The principal (~~or principal's~~), other building
20 administrator, or designee must make a reasonable effort to verbally
21 inform the student's parent or guardian within (~~twenty-four~~) 24
22 hours of the incident, and must send written notification as soon as
23 practical but postmarked no later than five business days after the
24 restraint or isolation occurred. If the (~~school or~~) school district
25 or other provider of public educational services customarily provides
26 the parent or guardian with school-related information in a language
27 other than English, the written report under this section must be
28 provided to the parent or guardian in that language.

29 (7) (a) (~~Beginning January 1, 2016, and~~) Annually by January 1st
30 (~~annually~~), each school district and other provider of public
31 educational services shall summarize the written reports received
32 under subsection (5) of this section and submit the summaries to the
33 office of the superintendent of public instruction. For each school,
34 the school district or other provider of public educational services
35 shall include the number of individual incidents of restraint and
36 isolation, the number of students involved in the incidents, the
37 number of injuries to students and staff members, and the types of
38 restraint or isolation used.

39 (b) No later than (~~ninety~~) 90 days after receipt, the office of
40 the superintendent of public instruction shall publish to its website

1 the data received (~~by the districts~~) under (a) of this subsection
2 (7). The office of the superintendent of public instruction may use
3 this data to investigate the training, practices, and other efforts
4 used by (~~schools and~~) school districts and other providers of
5 public educational services to reduce the use of restraint and
6 isolation.

7 (8) A school district or other provider of public educational
8 services shall not design, construct, remodel, reconfigure,
9 repurpose, or otherwise establish any room or other enclosed area for
10 the primary purpose of student isolation, irrespective of how the
11 space is labeled.

12 (9) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the provision of
13 a free appropriate public education under Part B of the federal
14 individuals with disabilities education improvement act or section
15 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973.

16 (10) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
17 apply:

18 (a) "Chemical restraint" means a drug or chemical administered by
19 a staff member to a student to control the student's behavior or
20 restrict the student's freedom of movement that is not: (i)
21 Prescribed by a licensed health professional acting within the scope
22 of the practice of that health profession for the standard treatment
23 of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; (ii) administered by
24 a licensed health professional acting within the scope of the
25 practice of that health profession or administered by a designated
26 staff member delegated and trained by the licensed health
27 professional under RCW 28A.210.260; or (iii) administered in
28 accordance with the student's medical or psychiatric treatment plan;

29 (b) "Imminent" means the state or condition of being likely to
30 occur at any moment or near at hand, rather than distant or remote;

31 (c) "Isolation" means restricting the student alone within a room
32 or any other form of enclosure, from which the student may not leave.
33 "Isolation" does not include a student's voluntary use of a quiet
34 space for self-calming, or temporary removal of a student from his or
35 her regular instructional area to an unlocked area for purposes of
36 carrying out an appropriate positive behavior intervention plan;

37 (d) "Likelihood of serious harm" means a substantial risk that:

38 (i) Harm will be inflicted by the student upon his or her own
39 person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide, or
40 inflict harm on oneself; or

1 (ii) Harm will be inflicted by the student upon another, as
2 evidenced by behavior that places another person or persons in
3 reasonable fear of sustaining such harm;

4 (e) "Mechanical restraint" means staff member use of a device to
5 restrict a student's freedom of movement. "Mechanical restraint" does
6 not include a device used by a staff member or a student: (i) As
7 prescribed by a licensed health professional acting within the scope
8 of the practice of that health profession; (ii) as documented in a
9 student's individualized education program under Part B of the
10 federal individuals with disabilities education act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.
11 1400 et seq., or a student's plan developed under section 504 of the
12 rehabilitation act of 1973; or (iii) for a specific therapeutic,
13 orthopedic, or medical purpose, when used for its designed purpose.
14 "Mechanical restraint" also does not include the use of vehicle
15 safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a
16 student in a vehicle;

17 (f) "Physical escort" means the temporary touching or holding of
18 a student's hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back by a staff member for
19 the purpose of directing the student to a safe or otherwise
20 appropriate location;

21 (g) "Physical prompt" means a teaching technique used by a staff
22 member that involves voluntary physical contact with a student for
23 the purpose of enabling the student to learn or model the physical
24 movement necessary for the development of a desired competency;

25 (h) "Physical restraint" means physical contact by one or more
26 staff members that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to
27 move the student's arms, legs, torso, or head freely. "Physical
28 restraint" does not include chemical restraint, mechanical restraint,
29 physical escort, or physical prompt;

30 (i) "Provider of public educational services" means any entity
31 that directly operates, or provides educational services under
32 contract to, an elementary or secondary school program that receives
33 public funds from the office of the superintendent of public
34 instruction. "Provider of public educational services" includes a
35 school district, a public school as defined in RCW 28A.150.010, an
36 educational service district, an institutional education provider as
37 defined in RCW 28A.190.005, a public agency or private entity
38 providing educational services under contract with any other provider
39 of public educational services, an authorized entity as defined in
40 RCW 28A.300.690, and any providers of services in accordance with

1 Part B of the federal individuals with disabilities education act, 20
2 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq. In addition, "provider of public educational
3 services" includes the state school for the blind and the center for
4 deaf and hard of hearing youth established under RCW 72.40.010;

5 (j) "Restraint" includes chemical restraint, mechanical
6 restraint, and physical restraint;

7 (k) "Staff member" means an employee or contractor of a school
8 district or other provider of public educational services. "Staff
9 member" does not include licensed or certified health professionals
10 of inpatient health care facilities; and

11 (l) "Students" means children and youth served by a school
12 district or other provider of public educational services.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.486 and 2013 c 202 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 ~~((Parents))~~ (1) School districts and other providers of public
16 educational services must provide the parents and guardians of
17 children who have individualized education programs or plans
18 developed under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973 (~~must~~
19 ~~be provided~~) with a copy of the (~~district~~) policy on the use of
20 isolation and restraint, adopted as required by RCW 28A.600.485, at
21 the time that the program or plan is created.

22 (2) "Provider of public educational services" has the same
23 meaning as in RCW 28A.600.485.

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