



August 17, 2018

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Effective July 1, 2018, there were several important revisions to the physical restraint and seclusion law for students. First, it clarifies that the use of seclusion as a planned intervention in a student's behavioral intervention plan, individualized education program, or 504 plan is prohibited.

Second, it modifies the definitions of seclusion and physical restraint. The Act clarifies that seclusion involves the involuntary confinement of a student in a room from which a student is physically prevented from leaving. The Act also modifies the definition of physical restraint to clarify that it includes, among other things, "carrying or forcibly moving a person from one location to another."

Third, it adds a new definition for "exclusionary time out," which is distinct from "seclusion" and is not prohibited as a planned intervention. The Act defines an exclusionary time out as: a temporary, continuously monitored separation of a student from an ongoing activity in a non-locked setting, for the purpose of calming such student or deescalating such student's behavior.

As reporting requirements have changed per the legislative revisions, ACES will be reporting any event when a student is carried or forcibly moved from one location to another. Legislation changes have also prompted the Connecticut Bureau of Special Education to update the Parental Notification of the Laws Relating to the use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Schools. A copy is attached and is located at www.aces.org. Please refer to the ACES website for updates as they become available.

Please contact me at vtaragowski@aces.org or 203.498.6849 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Taragowski".

Vanessa Taragowski

ACES, Director of Pupil Services and Collaborative Programs

Advocacy, Commitment, Excellence, Service

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