

Therapeutic Physical Intervention: (NEW - 12/09/99)

Clinton City Schools staff will make reasonable efforts to keep students and staff safe. Staff may need to provide physical intervention at times for the students' safety if a student presents a risk of harm to himself or others. Reasonable efforts, up to and including physical intervention, may be used.

In the event that the need for physical intervention continues, and/or is part of the student's IEP, then staff shall receive appropriate training.

Introduction:

Clinton City Schools do not encourage the use of physical intervention with students but do recognize that certain situations may necessitate such action. The use of physical intervention should be limited to situations in which the student becomes a significant danger to himself, others, or property and does not respond to less restrictive interventions, when reasonable, to terminate the negative behavior. In the event that physical intervention is used, it shall consist of the most passive intervention possible, which is necessary and adequate to guard the safety of both students and staff.

This policy establishes guidelines and procedures for managing the student who is exhibiting behavior, which presents an imminent risk of harm to himself and/or others.

When staff members have determined that the need for physical intervention exists, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. Isolate the problem student, if possible, to insure the safety of his/her class members.
2. Continue attempts to verbally de-escalate the student in a manner that suits the individual and circumstances involved allowing for the possibility of a non-physical conclusion to the incident.
3. All efforts are to be made to minimize the duration of a physical restraint. That is, as soon as possible the student is to be provided the opportunity to control his/her behavior.
4. Following a physical restraint, one of the staff members involved is to debrief the student regarding both the antecedents and consequences of the incident. Care must be taken to ensure this debriefing occurs without precipitating another incident and is within the student's ability level.
5. Staff must notify their supervisor and the student's parent or guardian as soon as possible following physical restraint.

6. Staff must complete a written report within one school day following the incident and send it to the staff members immediate supervisor.
7. Once physical intervention has been documented, the student's progress and the intervention's effectiveness should be reviewed periodically by the staff.