



Fairfax County Special Education PTA
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Restraint & Seclusion

Whereas, All students need to be educated in environments which are supportive and free from abuse, assault, injury, trauma and risk to life; Severe behaviors are a student's communication of an unmet need; National PTA endorses the Keeping All Students Safe Act (KASSA) introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2020; and

Whereas, The use of restraint and seclusion has resulted in the assault, injury, trauma and, in some cases, death of children in public schools; and

Whereas, Children at risk, especially students with disabilities, are disproportionately subjected to restraint and seclusion compared to their non-disabled peers;

Be it therefore

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies and programs that prohibit the use of mechanical, chemical, prone and supine restraints in schools; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies and programs that prohibit the use of seclusion in schools; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies, and programs that require school personnel to be trained in the use of evidence-based de-escalation techniques that do not involve physically handling students; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies and programs that result in the creation of safe de-escalation spaces separate from any space used for punitive discipline; that such spaces be in visual and auditory range of staff at all times; that such spaces allow a quiet, calm space to de-escalate; that no student shall be secluded in such a room; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies and programs that require that schools provide mental health supports to both students and staff involved in or witness to restraint or seclusion; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies, and programs providing that the use of physical restraints (excluding prone and supine restraints) shall only be used as a last resort in emergency* situations, not as a substitute for comprehensive school-wide supports and accommodations; that all interventions shall cease as soon as the immediate danger of physical harm ceases to exist; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA supports legislation, regulations, policies, and programs that ensure the safety of children in emergency cases where physical restraints (excluding prone and supine restraints) are necessary; that require schools to provide written notice of their restraint and seclusion policies to families; that require same-day written notification of any incidents of restraint or seclusion to families; and be it further

Resolved, That Fairfax County SEPTA will seek, via educational literature, programs and projects, to educate the school community and parents about the risks inherent in the use of restraint and seclusion in schools.

**Emergency is defined as an unanticipated and already occurring event that is placing the individual or others in imminent danger of physical harm.*

Adopted at the January 19, 2021 Fairfax County SEPTA General Membership Meeting