Parents/ Guardians:

A law was passed in the 2013 Washington State Legislative session that requires school districts to adopt and distribute to parents of students receiving special education or a Section 504 plan a policy for reporting incidents of student restraint and isolation.

As a parent and/or guardian of a student in the Special Education evaluation or IEP process or on a Section 504 plan, we are required by the law to give you a copy of our district regulation and policy. This notification does not mean that your child will be involved in restraint or isolation. However, in the event that an incident occurs that requires your student to be isolated or restrained, you will be informed by the principal or designee of your child's school. This Camas School District policy is attached.

In Camas Public Schools, the use of restraint and isolation is rare. The staff is trained in nonviolent crisis prevention and intervention techniques used before restraining or isolating a student. Special Education students requiring restraint and/or isolation have received a Functional Behavior Assessment to develop a Behavior Intervention Plan as part of their IEP process. As a member of the IEP or Section 504 team, parents will not only be informed but will be invited to participate in the development of the plan.

Please to contact our Special Services Department at 360-833-5570 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dana Lighty
Director of Special Services
Camas School District
Restraint, Isolation and Other Uses of Reasonable Force

It is the policy of the Camas Board of Directors that the district maintains a safe learning environment while treating all students with dignity and respect. All students in the district, including those who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will remain free from unreasonable restraint, restraint devices, isolation, and other uses of physical force. Under no circumstances will these techniques be used as a form of discipline or punishment.

This policy is intended to address district students. It is not intended to prevent or limit the use of restraint or other reasonable force as necessary with adults or other youth from outside the district as allowed by law.

Restraint and other used of physical force, as defined in the procedure accompanying this policy, may be used when necessary to prevent or minimize imminent bodily injury to self or others. Restraint and other uses of physical force may be used to protect district property if de-escalation interventions have failed or are inappropriate.

Use of restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force may be used on any student when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an “imminent likelihood of serious harm” as defined by RCW 70.96B.010 and explained in the procedure accompanying this policy. Serious harm includes physical harm to self, another, or district property. Staff will closely monitor such actions to prevent harm to the student and will use the minimum amount of restraint and isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff. The restraint, isolation, and other forms of reasonable force will be discontinued when the likelihood of serious harm has dissipated.

The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy, including review, reporting and parent/guardian notification of incidents involving restraint or isolation as required by law. Additionally, the superintendent will annually report to the board on incidents involving the use of force.

Cross References: Policy 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students  
Policy 2162 Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Legal References: 
RCW 9A.16.020 Use of Force — When lawful  
9A.16.100 Use of Force on Children — Policy — Actions presumed unreasonable  
28A.150.300 Corporal Punishment Prohibited  
28A.155.210 Use of restraint or isolation – Requirements for procedure to notify parent or guardian  
28A.600.485 [as amended by SHB 1240]  
70.96B.010 Definitions  
392-400-235 Discipline — Conditions and limitations
Management Resources:  
  Policy & Legal News  July 2015  
  Policy & Legal News  December 2013  
  Policy & Legal News  July 2013  
  Policy News  December 2008  

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Camas School District  
Revised:  1.14; 5.14; 10.15