

Promoting Alternatives to Prone Restraints in Schools



Our Values:

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have a right to a safe and supportive environment at school that uses positive behavioral interventions and only chooses the least intrusive intervention to address challenging behavior.

Background:

- Prone restraint is when a child is placed face down on their stomach and held by two or more adults in order to control behavior.
- Minnesota legislation, effective as of August 1, 2011, limited the use of seclusion and restraints to emergency situations only and specifically allowed prone restraints until August 1, 2012.
- In the 2012 legislative session, prone restraint use in schools was extended to be allowed until August 1, 2013 with additional reporting requirements for schools for the 2012-2013 year as well as the establishment of a taskforce by the Minnesota Department of Education that includes advocacy groups and other school representatives. This taskforce is to work together with MDE to develop a statewide plan by February 1, 2013 to reduce the use of all restrictive procedures and significantly reduce the use of prone restraints in schools.
- A February 1, 2012 report issued by the Minnesota Department of Education revealed that 592 incidents of prone restraint were used in about a 100 school day period. Children with autism spectrum disorders (38%) and emotional/behavioral disorders (40%) were the most likely to be put into prone restraint.

What Legislators Can Do:

- Emphasize prevention and reduction, internal and external reviews, and training to expand school-wide positive behavior intervention supports in Minnesota schools.
- Ensure adequate funding for staff training.