

## ---RESTRAINT POLICY

The Coventry School Committee and administration acknowledge the necessity to prepare a restraint plan in the event that a crisis should occur. Our children have a basic need for security and safety. The Coventry Public Schools believes that positive behavioral support and educational strategies should be used as they relate to behavioral intervention, to respect each child's dignity and personal privacy. In accordance with Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Physical Restraint Regulations *“intervention techniques must focus not only on eliminating a certain undesirable behavior, but also upon a determination of the purpose of that behavior, and the provision/instruction of a more appropriate behavior. Behavior intervention plans must be individually designed to meet the needs of the student, including students served in general education, special education, and students protected by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These behavioral interventions must not be confused with a physical restraint/crisis intervention. Physical restraint/crisis intervention are not part of a behavioral intervention plan designed to alter a child's behavior, but rather are utilized as one method of preventing harm or injury”*.

Physical intervention should only be used as a last resort. Coventry Public Schools employ the strategies specifically identified Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (CPI) in order to provide the care, welfare, safety and security for our students. At no time should a physical restraint be used for the purpose of changing behavior in situations where no protection from harm or injury is needed. At all times and in all circumstances the least intrusive physical interaction needed to protect the child or others shall be used and shall be terminated as soon as the need for protections has abated.

**Required Training For All Staff:** Consistent with Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Physical Restraint Regulations section 4.2 Coventry will provide all staff with training regarding the school's physical restraint/crisis intervention policies. This training shall occur annually within the first month of school. The training will consist of:

- overview of the district Restraint Policy
- de-escalation of challenging behaviors
- the types of restraints used in CPI
- information regarding the risk of injury to a student and safety considerations
- use of physical restraint with students with known medical or psychological limitations
- behavioral interventions strategies
- identification of program staff who are certified in the use of physical restraint/crisis intervention.

Coventry shall maintain two certified CPI Trainers in the district. These Certified Trainers will be required to train individuals within each building identified by the principal as the Crisis Team in accordance with **Coventry Public Schools Policy #2060**.

A list of individuals requiring training shall be organized by the building principal and sent to the Director of Special Education. A schedule to provide the training will be developed and authorized by the Superintendent of Schools or his designee. Individuals on the crisis team as well as any other staff identified by the principal shall receive an initial full training and all subsequent refresher trainings in order to maintain their individual certification. ***Individuals without proper, up to date certification may not participate on the Crisis Team.***

The CPI Trainers shall submit the names of the individuals who have successfully completed their training along with the expiration date of their certificate to the Director of Special Education.

Only personnel who have had the training and hold a valid certificate may administer physical restraint/crisis intervention with students. **NOTE:** This training requirement shall not preclude a teacher, employee or agent of a public education program from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons, or themselves from imminent, serious physical harm. (***RI Restraint Regulations 7.1***)

Consistent with (***RI Restraint Regulations 4.4***) The content of the training for the individuals identified on the crisis teams shall include, but not be limited to:

- Appropriate procedures for preventing the need for physical restraint including de-escalation/relationship building and positive behavioral supports
- A complete description and identification of dangerous behaviors that may require physical restraint as well as the methods for evaluating the risk of harm in individual situations
- Opportunity to practice in multiple simulated situations. Instruction will include monitoring to determine the effect of the person restrained, as well as physical signs of distress and obtaining medical intervention
- Instruction regarding the documentation and reporting requirements
- Demonstration by each participant of proficiency in administering physical restraint/crisis intervention.

**Use of physical restraint/intervention may only be used in the following circumstances:**

- Non-physical interventions would not be effective; ***and***
- The student's behavior poses a threat of imminent, serious, physical harm to self and/or others; ***and***
- If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed all of the positive behavioral supports have been appropriately and consistently implemented and the student has failed to respond to those techniques

(***RI Restraint Regulations 6.1-6.2***)

### **Safety Requirements: ( *RI Restraint Regulations 7.2-7.3* )**

- No restraint shall be administered so that the student is prevented from breathing or speaking. During a restraint, a staff member shall continuously monitor the physical status of the student, including skin color and respiration. A restraint shall be released immediately upon determination by the staff that the student is no longer at risk of causing imminent harm
- Restraint shall be administered so as to prevent or minimize physical harm. If at any time the student demonstrates significant physical distress, the student shall be released and school staff shall take steps to seek medical assistance.
- Program staff shall review and consider any know medical or psychological limitations, behavior intervention plans regarding the use of physical restraint with an individual student
- Following the release of a student from restraint the school shall implement the following procedures:
  1. Review the incident with the student regarding behavior that precipitated the restraint
  2. Review the incident with staff involved
  3. Amend behavior plan as appropriate
  4. Review data to determine patterns and frequency of behaviors
  5. Notify and/or convene a meeting with parents

**Limitations and Prohibitions:** Physical restrain/crisis intervention shall be limited to the use of such reasonable force as necessary to protect a student or another member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious physical harm. Physical restrain is prohibited in the following circumstances:

- As a means of punishment
- As an intervention designed to, or likely to cause physical pain
- As in any intervention which denies adequate sleep, food, water, shelter, bedding or access to bathroom facilities
- As in any intervention which is designed to subject used to subject, or likely to subject the individual to verbal abuse, ridicule or humiliation, physical pain, or which can be expected to cause excessive emotional trauma
- Which employs a device or material or objects that simultaneously immobilize all four extremities, including the procedure know as prone containment, except that prone containment may be used by trained personnel as a limited emergency intervention when a documented part of a previously agreed upon written behavioral plan
- As in seclusion, unless under constant surveillance and observation when documented as part of a previously agreed upon written behavioral intervention plan
- As in any intervention that precludes adequate supervision of the child
- Any intervention which deprives the individual of one or more of his or her senses

**Reporting Requirements:**

The staff member/team involved in the restraint shall inform the building administrator, in writing, no later than the next working day. The administrator shall maintain an ongoing written record of all reported instances of physical restraint/crisis intervention utilizing Coventry School Department Restraint Logs/Incident Reports.

The building principal in consultation with the staff member involved in the restraint shall inform parent/guardian of the incident no more than two school days after each incident. The documentation of this notification shall be maintained by the school and submitted to the Special Education Director.

The Special Education will provide the RI Department of Education with a record of every incident of the use of physical restraint/crisis intervention annually.

References: RI Education Laws and Rules Annotated (2006-2007), Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Physical Restraint Regulations, Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Governing the Education for Children with Disabilities, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1/25/2011

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

Adopted: