



Restraint & Seclusion Policy

Ann Jerkins Harris Academy of Excellence (AJHAE) is committed to maintaining a safe, positive, and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.

AJHAE follows all applicable requirements established by:

- Ohio Revised Code (ORC)
- Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)
- Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW)
- Ohio's Policy and Standards for the Implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)
- Applicable community school sponsor standards and requirements

The school is committed to reducing and preventing the need for restraint and seclusion through positive behavioral supports, prevention strategies, de-escalation techniques, and trauma-informed practices.

Positive Behavioral Supports

AJHAE prioritizes proactive approaches to student behavior and school safety, including:

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS);
- Social-emotional learning strategies;
- De-escalation techniques;
- Conflict resolution;
- Trauma-informed practices;
- Behavioral interventions and supports;
- Individualized student supports when appropriate.

The use of restraint or seclusion is not intended for discipline, punishment, coercion, convenience, or retaliation.

Use of Restraint

Physical restraint may only be used when a student's behavior presents an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and less restrictive interventions have been ineffective or determined inappropriate under the circumstances.

Any restraint used must:

- Be implemented only by trained staff when required by law and district procedures;
- Be limited to the least restrictive intervention necessary;
- End immediately when the immediate risk of harm has passed;

- Be administered in a manner that protects the health, safety, and dignity of the student.

AJHAE prohibits the use of:

- Prone restraint;
- Mechanical restraint, unless otherwise permitted by law;
- Chemical restraint;
- Any restraint that restricts breathing or causes harm;
- Physical restraint for punishment, discipline, or staff convenience.

Use of Seclusion

Seclusion may only be used when a student's behavior presents an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and no less restrictive intervention is effective.

Seclusion shall:

- Be used only for the minimum time necessary;
- Be continuously monitored by trained staff;
- Occur in a safe environment that complies with applicable legal requirements;
- End immediately once the immediate safety risk has passed.

Seclusion shall never be used:

- As punishment;
- For staff convenience;
- As a substitute for appropriate educational supports or behavioral interventions.

Parent Notification

Parents or guardians will be notified within the timelines required by Ohio law and school procedures whenever restraint or seclusion is used involving their child.

The school will maintain documentation of incidents in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Documentation & Reporting

AJHAE maintains records related to incidents involving restraint or seclusion as required by Ohio law and ODEW requirements.

Documentation may include:

- Description of the incident;
- Interventions attempted prior to restraint or seclusion;
- Duration of the intervention;
- Staff involved;
- Parent notification;
- Follow-up actions or recommendations.

The school may review incident data to support ongoing prevention and behavioral support efforts.

Staff Training

Staff members responsible for implementing restraint or seclusion procedures shall receive training consistent with Ohio requirements and school procedures.

Training may include:

- Crisis prevention and intervention;
- De-escalation strategies;
- Positive behavioral supports;
- Trauma-informed practices;
- Safe restraint procedures;
- Monitoring and documentation requirements.

Student Dignity & Safety

AJHAE is committed to protecting the dignity, emotional wellbeing, and physical safety of students during all behavioral interventions.

The school encourages collaborative problem-solving, and preventive supports to reduce situations that may lead to crisis interventions.

Complaints & Concerns

Parents, guardians, students, or community members with questions or concerns regarding restraint or seclusion practices are encouraged to contact school administration.

AJHAE will review concerns in accordance with school procedures and applicable legal requirements.