

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 281

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1224, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR, TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION OF CERTAIN RESOURCES AND POLICIES, AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 33-1224, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-1224. POWERS AND DUTIES OF TEACHERS. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Corporal punishment" means knowingly and purposely inflicting physical pain on a pupil as a disciplinary measure.

(b) "Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location.

(c) "Restraint" means physical, mechanical, or chemical forms of restriction, which are defined as follows:

(i) "Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his torso, arms, legs, or head freely. This term does not include a physical escort;

(ii) "Mechanical restraint" means the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. This term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical-related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

1. Adaptive devices or mechanical supports, when used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;

2. Vehicle safety restraints, when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;

3. Restraints for medical immobilization; or

4. Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm; and

(iii) "Chemical restraint" means the use of drugs or medication to control behavior. This term does not include drugs or medication prescribed by and administered in accordance with the directions of a qualified health professional.

1 (d) "Seclusion" means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in
2 a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leav-
3 ing. This term does not include a timeout that is a behavior management
4 technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored
5 separation of the student in a nonlocked setting, and is implemented for
6 the purpose of calming.

7 (2) In the absence of any statute or rule or regulation of the board of
8 trustees, any teacher employed by a school district shall have the right to
9 direct how and when each pupil shall attend to his appropriate duties, and
10 the manner in which a pupil shall demean himself while in attendance at the
11 school. It is the duty of a teacher to carry out the rules and regulations
12 of the board of trustees in ~~controlling and maintaining discipline~~ managing
13 classroom behavior, and a teacher shall have the power to adopt any reason-
14 able rule or regulation to ~~control and maintain discipline~~ manage classroom
15 behavior in, and otherwise govern, the classroom, not inconsistent with any
16 statute or rule or regulation of the board of trustees. However, corporal
17 punishment shall not be used.

18 (3) Restraint and seclusion shall not be used as forms of discipline or
19 methods of classroom governance. Chemical restraint shall not be used for
20 any purpose. Physical or mechanical restraint or seclusion may be deployed
21 only in circumstances where a pupil's conduct has placed himself, employees,
22 or any other individual in imminent danger of serious bodily harm.

23 (4) The state department of education shall prepare resources, guid-
24 ance, and training modules to support schools in adhering to the provisions
25 of this section.

26 (5) All public, charter, and private school staff directly assigned
27 to students or classrooms shall receive annual professional development
28 training regarding positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques,
29 and classroom behavior management. All staff directly serving students or
30 classrooms with students who demonstrate aggressive or dangerous behaviors
31 shall receive annual professional development training in crisis manage-
32 ment, de-escalation techniques, the correct use of restraints and seclusion
33 when required, and the implementation of functional behavior assessment,
34 behavior intervention plans, and crisis plans.

35 (6) All school district boards of trustees, directors of public charter
36 schools, and private school administrators shall demonstrate to the state
37 department of education that they have a seclusion and restraint policy that
38 meets the requirements of this section. School district boards of trustees,
39 directors of public charter schools, and private school administrators
40 shall adopt a policy that applies to nondisabled and disabled students to
41 include the following:

42 (a) Definitions of physical restraint, mechanical restraint, chemical
43 restraint, and seclusion pursuant to this section;

44 (b) Guidelines for use and prohibitions for use of restraint and seclu-
45 sion;

46 (c) Reporting requirements for documenting and informing parents, ad-
47 ministrators, and state and federal agencies as necessary of each in-
48 stance of restraint or seclusion; and

49 (d) Requirements for periodic review of instances of restraint or
50 seclusion, and of practices related to such, by school district boards

1 of trustees, directors of public charter schools, and private school
2 administrators.

3 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
4 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
5 July 1, 2023.