**NEVADA GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Position on Restraints and Seclusion for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities**

Historically, individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities have been restrained and secluded in various aspects of society. The risks of restraint and seclusion are well documented and range from minor physical and psychological injury, trauma, to death.

# The use of seclusion, mechanical and chemical restraint, or exposure to unpleasant or harmful sensory experiences (taste, touch, auditory, etc.) should never be adopted as the sole approach to managing challenging behavior. The use of physical restraints, seclusion, and other interventions is marked by inequality in power between the person delivering action and the recipient. Such interventions do not address the cause of the problematic behavior, and may create social isolation and trauma through the application of pain or fear. The use of such interventions should be replaced by the application of positive behavioral support within a trauma informed environment.

# **The Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (NGCDD)** believes that the use of physical, mechanical, and chemical restraints is inappropriate except in situations of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the individual or others. The Council strongly opposes the inappropriate and/or unnecessary use of restraints and other aversive interventions. The NGCDD also believes that seclusion should not be used under any circumstances.

**Policy Recommendations:**

1. Ensure that students with I/DD are entitled to free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).
2. Ensure that policies support that restraint should only be used in situations where a child or youth has demonstrated that s/he is an imminent physical danger to themselves, or others and all other least restrictive supports have been exhausted. Moreover, when restraint is used, it should end when the child or youth demonstrates that s/he is no longer a danger to him/herself or others or demonstrates signs of medical distress. Restraint should never be used as a means of discipline or coercion, nor should restraint ever be used as a primary method for de-escalating a child’s behavior.
3. Support full funding of IDEA 2004, that promotes the use of Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIP) when a student has demonstrated behavior that impedes their learning or the learning of others, is necessary to fully support children and youth with disabilities. (Council for Exceptional Children, 2020)

Last Review Date:

References:

Council for Exceptional Children (2020) Position on Restraint and Seclusion Procedures

in School Settings. [https://exceptionalchildren.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Restraint%20and%20Seclusion-2020.pdf](https://exceptionalchildren.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Restraint%20and%20Seclusion-2020.pdf#:~:text=POSITION%20STATEMENT%20Position%20on%20Restraint%20and%20Seclusion%20Procedures%20in%20School)