

DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICIES

File: JKAA

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT PREVENTION AND BEHAVIOR SUPPORT POLICY

The Dartmouth Public School District seeks to promote a safe and productive educational environment and workplace for its students and employees. In accordance with Massachusetts Code of Regulations (603 CMR 46.00), the law governing the use of physical restraint of students in public schools, the Dartmouth Public Schools seeks to ensure that every student in the Dartmouth Public Schools is free from the use of restraint in a manner that is not consistent with these state regulations. It is the policy of the Dartmouth Public Schools that physical restraint shall be used only in emergency situations of last resort, after other lawful and less intrusive alternatives have failed or been deemed inappropriate, and with extreme caution.

If physical restraint is necessary, school personnel shall use physical restraint with two goals in mind:

- (a) To administer a physical restraint only when needed to protect a student and/or a member of the school community from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm; and
- (b) To prevent or minimize any harm to the student as a result of the use of physical restraint.

This Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy does not preclude any teacher, employee or agent of a public education program from using reasonable force to protect students, other persons, or themselves from assault or imminent, serious, physical harm.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS: 603 CMR 46.00

Adopted 1/25/16