

POLICY ON THERAPEUTIC RESTRAINT

The Augusta School Department hereby authorizes school officials to use therapeutic restraint to the extent permitted by law, and in a manner consistent with state law and regulations. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for developing procedures for the use of therapeutic restraint. This policy and any accompanying procedures shall be reviewed at least annually by the superintendent or his/her designee, and the superintendent shall recommend to the school board any needed changes in this policy.

Therapeutic Restraint: Therapeutic restraining is physical restraint of a student for the purpose of preventing that student from injuring him or herself or others, when such restraint is undertaken in accordance with an individualized, written plan that specifically calls for therapeutic restraint. Therapeutic restraint, as defined in this policy and any accompanying procedures, should be administered by personnel trained in that restraint.

Therapeutic restraint does not include any intervention by any school official that would otherwise be governed by state law on the use of reasonable force (20-A MRSA § 4009), which includes the use of a reasonable degree of force by school officials against a person who is creating a disturbance, when the official believes that force is necessary to control the disturbing behavior, or to remove the person from the scene of the disturbance.

Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4502(5) (M) and accompanying regulations: (20-A MRSA § 4009)

Adopted: April 10, 2002

**City of Augusta
Department of Public Schools**