

Valley West School

269 Moore St., Chicopee, MA 01013

(413) 592-6069

Physical Restraint Consent Form

Valley West School will not utilize any form of restraint except as described in this section. The physical restraint of students shall be used only in cases where the student is behaving in an unsafe manner and is not responding to verbal direction. This school shall never use any mechanical or chemical restraints. No student shall be restrained for the purpose of punishment.

Valley West School requires an annual physical restraint training program, conducted by a certified agency/trainer, to be attended by appropriate staff every year. Only staff who have received certified restraint training will be deemed qualified to engage in a physical restraint.

Rooms and space used for physical restraints will not be locked and will be appropriate and physically safe.

Staff will employ other means of redirecting a student (e.g. verbal redirection, time-outs) away from potentially risky behavior before a decision to employ physical restraint is made. Physical restraint will be the intervention of last resort, circumstances permitting, after other means have been exhausted.

Valley West School staff will employ the least amount of force necessary to prevent a student from harming self or others. Passive physical restraint shall not continue for a period longer than needed to prevent a student from inflicting harm on self or others. When the restraint of a student approaches 20 continuous minutes, the principal or the principal's designee will be notified and a decision on whether to extend restraint time will be made.

In any instance where a restraint occurs for an extended period of time, or when a student is deemed to require more physical force due to extreme affective and physical agitation of the student, the staff member in charge of the restraint shall consult with the chief administrating officer, the clinical director and the school nurse to determine if is necessary to call an ambulance or the police.

Parents/guardians and the sending school district will be notified of any instances of physical restraint. Valley West School will document a physical restraint by placing an incident report in the student's file. The incident report will document the participants, date, time, and length of the restraint. A description of the incident, alternative interventions and the reasons why the restraint was required will be noted. All restraint reports will be reviewed by administration.

I give permission for Valley West School to utilize physical restraint procedures (as described above) with my child if he or she is presenting as a safety risk to self or others.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date