

Equitable Access and Student Outcomes

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Recommendations 2019–2020

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Washington serve children and youth with disabilities who may demonstrate challenging behaviors. Safety, dignity and ethical treatment should be the primary foundations upon which we practice as educators. A recent survey of Washington Special Education Administrators was conducted as part of this position paper. 103 administrators responded to this survey across the state (60 percent in Western Washington, 40 percent in Mid to Eastern Washington). A snapshot of the data is included below:

- 96 percent of administrators report providing direct training on de-escalation strategies (n = 99)
- A large majority (76 percent) report using Right Response © as their primary method of training for de-escalation
- 87 percent of administrators report providing direct training on reporting of incidents related to restraint and isolation (n = 87)

It is the position of the Washington State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) that our districts must create a uniform approach to the provision of training, supervision, mentoring and data collection regarding restraint and isolation practices. We suggest the following:

1. All LEAs in Washington should use clearly defined definitions of “restraint” and “isolation.” These terms are defined through RCW’s and OSPI.
2. All LEAs in Washington should utilize a designated and vetted crisis prevention and response system that focuses primarily on de-escalation strategies.
3. All LEAs should designate a primary person whose role includes accurately monitoring, collecting and reporting restraint and isolation data through OSPI protocols.
4. All LEAs should follow all OSPI reporting requirements for incidents of restraint and isolation.
5. All LEAs should have a formalized system of protocols for implementation, training, reporting, and reviewing incidents leading to restraint or isolation.

Subcommittee recommendations for continued work on restraint and isolation issues for the 2020–2021 SEAC:

- a) Invite major vendors of crisis prevention and response systems to present information about their products to the SEAC.
- b) Develop a comprehensive crosswalk document noting common elements of each product, such as: de-escalation techniques, trauma-based techniques, training details, and cost.
- c) Develop a method of quarterly reporting on district’s activities with these recommendations (to the SEAC).
- d) Develop a framework for providing training for families on de-escalation techniques (behavior and crisis prevention) for this time of COVID crisis and beyond