Greater Essex County District School Board

Policy: Strategies for Safe Intervention

Reference No: P-AD-21

The safety, security and welfare of students and staff remain the primary goals of all interventions in our school settings. The use of Behavioural Management System Training (BMST) behavioural strategies must follow efforts to employ the least intrusive methods available to help students to gain self-control and self-regulation. It is the policy of the Greater Essex County District School Board that when a student has been unable to maintain self-control to a degree that presents an imminent risk to self or others, the use of a safe physical containment strategy may be the appropriate option.

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Regulation: Strategies for Safe Intervention

Reference No: R-AD-21

The GECDSB has adopted the Behaviour Management System Training (BMST) model developed by the Ontario Educational Services Corporation (OESC) in response to the need for a safe intervention program within the school in order to ensure the safety, security, and welfare of students and staff in our schools. BMST focuses on teaching effective ways to deal with and change behaviour based on non-physical techniques and strategies. The goals are to understand the needs that drive behaviour and to use positive interventions before the behaviour escalates to a critical level. Staff should become familiar with verbal and nonverbal intervention techniques which prevent escalation of potentially volatile situations (refer to the BMS Practitioner Workbook outlining effective coping strategies).

Physical intervention and/or containment will **only** occur in situations of imminent risk involving the student:

- Attempting to assault another person;
- Attempting self-injury;
- Attempting to leave a supervised area and his/her personal safety is at imminent risk;
- Attempting to damage property which may result in injury to self or others; or,
- Less intrusive measures have not effectively de-escalated the risk of injury.

The following guidelines should be adhered to by all staff contemplating the use of Behaviour Management System containments with students.

1.0 The use of planned physical intervention techniques (with parent/guardian consent)

- Physical intervention should be conducted by a team trained in BMST.
- Once a decision has been made for the planned use of a physical intervention in responding to a student's behaviour, the school administrator must obtain the parent's/guardian's consent to utilize such a procedure (see Strategies for Safe Intervention Consent Form Appendix A).
- School staff must maintain student dignity and safety during the consideration of some form of a physical intervention and/or containment to resolve the situation (i.e. classroom evacuation or temporary separation of the student using verbal, gestural, or visual prompts).
- The physical intervention should last only as long as necessary to resolve the actual risk of danger and harm.

- The degree of force applied may not exceed what is necessary to protect the student and/or other persons from imminent harm.
- The advantage of using a physical intervention outweighs the risk of harm that may arise to the student and/or staff when intervening.
- The repeated use of physical intervention for any one student should be viewed as failure of the Behaviour Plan to adequately address those factors precipitating the need for physical intervention and as such, the Behaviour Plan must be reviewed and modified.
- The use of physical intervention should be documented immediately and a copy placed in the student's OSR (see Strategies for Safe Intervention Report Form Appendix B).

2.0 The use of emergency Physical Intervention Techniques

In an emergency, a physical containment strategy may be used **once** if there is a clear and imminent risk that student will physically injure themselves and/or others, but must immediately be followed by:

a) Notifying the Principal/Vice-Principal;
b) Completing a Strategies for Safe Intervention Report Form (Appendix B) to secure the appropriate signatures;
c) Notifying the student's parent(s)/guardian(s); and,
d) Completing a Behaviour Plan and a Safety Plan**.**

Appendix A: Strategies for Safe Intervention Consent Form
Appendix B: Strategies for Safe Intervention Report Form

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Strategies For Safe Intervention Consent Form

Consent Form - Appendix A

I/We understand that, on occasion, the school staff may be required to use a safe physical containment strategy as outlined in my child's safety plan, or the use of a safe area, as part of (Student Name) _____ behaviour plan or safety plan at

_____

(School)

The policy procedures regarding the use of these intervention techniques have been explained clearly and fully by _____

and I/we consent to the use of these procedures with my/our child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

_____

Relationship to Child: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

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Strategies For Safe Intervention Consent Form

Report Form - Appendix B

Name of Student: _____ School: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Expectionality: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Details of behaviour Leading to Physical Safety Containment Strategy
(Student behaviour and staff Responses):

Steps taken to diffuse or de-escalate behaviours:

Type of physical safety Containment strategy:

☐ Small Student Containment ☐ Large Student Containment

Details of safety containment strategy:

Duration of physical intervention:

Outcome/resolution/post - intervention techniques:

Date/time parent/guardian was contacted regarding intervention

Date: _____ Time: _____

Signatures of staff involved in intervention:

_____

Incident report completed and reviewed with Principal:

Principal Signature: Date: