

Seclusion and Restraint Task Force

"Keeping Everyone Safe in Our Schools"

The **Seclusion and Restraint Task Force** has been assembled and challenged to develop and provide specific recommendations to assist the Interim Education Committee in codifying policies and procedures regulating the use of seclusion and restraint in North Dakota schools.

Shared Values:

- Collaborative and Integrated Stakeholder Participation
- Safety-Based - "Keeping Everyone Safe in Our Schools"
- Student-Focused
- Best-Practices-Based
- Uniform Implementation and Monitoring
- Adequate Resources

Background and History

During this 2015 Session, Senate Concurrent Resolution 4018¹ (attached) was passed, which instructed the legislature to study the use of seclusion and restraint within North Dakota's schools and to report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the 65th Legislative Assembly. The Interim Education Committee is currently in the process of doing so and has had a number of meetings, which began in September of 2015. With the wide array of entities who have an interest in this topic, a stakeholder's group is being convened. It is the intent to have this group be inclusive of all relevant parties, along with legislative representation. During its January 2016 meeting, members of the Interim Education Committee indicated that it would be helpful to receive formal recommendations from a task force of stakeholders to support common understanding of the relevant issues and to identify potential legislative action.

Co-Conveners

The Seclusion and Restraint Task Force is being co-convened by the **North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI)**, the **North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project (NDP&A)**, the **North Dakota Council of Education Leaders (NDCEL)**, **North Dakota United (NDU)** and the **North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD)**.

Process and Facilitation

The Task Force will utilize a consensus-based decision-making process and will be facilitated by the Consensus Council, Inc.

Stakeholder Commitment and Responsibilities

As a member of a constituency or group of constituencies that has an interest and investment in this issue, your participation in this task force is critical.

¹ 64th Legislative Assembly, Senate Concurrent Resolution 4018

The time available to accomplish its goal is limited and the members will need to work diligently over the next six or seven months in order to bring a collective set of recommendations to the committee. Significant amounts of information will be shared and discussed at each meeting and decisions will be made. Consistency and participation will be imperative.

As a member of the Task Force you are asked to affirm your commitment to attend the meetings and participate, and assume the critical role/responsibility of serving as the communication conduit (to and from) your constituency(ies).

Please note that:

- To promote and ensure attendance and participation, Task Force meetings will be held monthly - and as much as possible - on a consistent date (the 4th Thursday of each month through September/October - except June), at consistent times (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and in consistent locations in Bismarck. Please add the following schedule to your calendar and save the dates*:

Thursday, April 28, 2016 - Great River Energy Center – Fort Union Rooms (East and West)

Thursday, May 26, 2016 - Great River Energy Center – Fort Union Rooms (East and West)

Thursday, July 28, 2016 - Great River Energy Center – Fort Union Rooms (East and West)

Thursday, August 25, 2016 - Great River Energy Center – Fort Union Rooms (East and West)

Thursday, September 22, 2016 - Great River Energy Center – Fort Union Rooms (East and West)

Thursday, October 27, 2016 - *(Optional - to be utilized if the Task Force has not completed its work)*

**Your commitment to attend all of the meetings will promote and ensure consistency throughout the process.*

- A steering committee (made up of the co-conveners and Task Force members) will be established during the initial meeting to address the needs of the process and serve as a writing committee.

**Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota In Regular
Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4018 (Senator Dever)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the use of seclusion and restraint procedures in schools.

WHEREAS, seclusion and restraint procedures are safety procedures designed to isolate a student from others or to hold a student in response to behavior that places the student or other students at risk of injury; and

WHEREAS, states have reported adverse consequences from the use of seclusion and restraint procedures in schools; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that seclusion and restraint procedures are prone to misapplication and abuse, potentially placing students in more danger than the initial behavior; and

WHEREAS, this state does not track the frequency with which seclusion and restraint procedures are used in schools; and

WHEREAS, this state is one of eighteen that does not have laws directly addressing the use of seclusion and restraint procedures in schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Legislative Management study the use of seclusion and restraint procedures in schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly.