

Abusive Interventions: Timeline & Actions

2009

- By December 2009, 23 states have little or no meaningful protection against seclusion and restraint. See [Wrightslaw summary](#).
- December 2009: Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act, [H.R. 4247](#), introduced in U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman George Miller, Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, and Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Member of the Committee and Co-Chair of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus. Companion Senate bill, [S. 2860](#), introduced by Senator Chris Dodd of the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee.
- May 2009: House of Representatives holds first national [hearings](#) about the dangers of restraint and seclusion. Includes testimony about 14 year-old Cedric Napoleon who suffocated and died when his teacher lay on top of him when a disagreement arose after he was denied lunch, and 7 year-old Paige Gaydos, who was repeatedly restrained by her teacher and whose parents were not informed of the potential injuries.
- U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issues [Seclusions and Restraints: Selected Cases of Death and Abuse at Public and Private Schools and Treatment Centers](#), GAO-09-719T (May 19, 2009), documenting hundreds of cases of alleged abuse and death resulting from restraint and seclusion, most of them involving children with disabilities. GAO notes the lack of national data on restraint and seclusion.

2008

- Texas reports 18,741 incidents of restraint; California reports 33,095 incidents of restraint, seclusion, and other emergency interventions. The 2 states contain over 20% of America's children. Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island are the only other states requiring state-wide collection of data.
- Office of Special Education Programs, Department of Education [letter](#): IDEA does not prohibit use of mechanical restraints. It is up to state laws to regulate.

2006

- IDEA 2006 regulations give school personnel greater leeway to remove children from the classroom without notice to parents. Expands circumstances under which several short-term removals would not trigger IDEA's change in placement protections and would not require notice, see 34 C.F.R. 300.536.

2004

- 13 year-old Jonathan King hangs himself in Atlanta seclusion room between 15-minute checks by personnel. [Read CNN story](#).

Resources on the Web:

Restraint/Seclusion Legislation

- Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act (bill introduced Dec. 2009): [H.R. 4247](#) and [S. 2860](#).
- [Wrightslaw analysis](#) of Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act by Jessica Butler (2009).
- National Disability Rights Network, [School is Not Supposed to Hurt](#) (2009), documenting restraint/seclusion incidents investigated by Protection & Advocacy Network.
- Council of Parent Attorneys & Advocates, Inc., [Unsafe in the Schoolhouse](#) (2009) detailing almost 200 stories of the use of restraint, seclusion, and aversives in America's schools.
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), [Policy on Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in School Settings](#) (2009).
- Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, [The Use of Seclusion in School Settings](#) (2009). CCBD is a division within CEC that is devoted to behavioral issues.

Providing Positive Interventions to Children

- U.S. Department of Education, US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, [Center on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports](#).
- The Alliance to Prevent Restraint Seclusion and Aversives in School (APRAIS), [Advocacy Materials](#) for parents whose children may be subject to restraint and seclusion.
- [Association for Positive Behavioral Support](#): information and research on positive interventions.