



Teaching All God's Children



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Emergency Safety Interventions

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas is committed to serving students with a variety of needs. Regardless of identified student needs, any student, at some point in time, could manifest problem behaviors. Creating a safe and faith filled environment for all our students is a primary concern. Through the implementation best practices such as Virtuous Behavior Formation (for more information on Virtuous Behavior Formation see the Winter 2012 edition of the Teaching All God's Children newsletter on Positive Behavior Supports) the use of preventative strategies and de-escalation techniques most behaviors are able to be addressed without incident. However, on extremely rare occasions, a student's behavior may escalate to the point where you are concerned about the physical safety of the student or the students in your class. On these extremely rare occasions, Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI) may be required. Every effort should be made to address the behavioral needs of a student to prevent the need for the use of Emergency Safety Interventions (seclusion and restraint).

What are Emergency Safety Interventions

Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI) are the use of seclusion or physical restraint when you feel a student may be a harm to himself/herself or others.

What is considered physical restraint?

Physical restraint means the use of bodily force to substantially limit a student's movements. The use of prone (face down), supine (face up), physical restraint that obstructs the airway of a student, or any physical restraint that impacts a student's primary mode of communication is **PROHIBITED** in Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas.

In order to use physical restraint (standing or seated) with a student, a school employee should be trained, consistent with nationally-recognized training programs, to ensure the safe use of this behavior

intervention strategy. The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas has chosen the Safe Crisis Management (SCM) program. Karen Kroh is a certified trainer in SCM and is available to train school employees as requested by the principal.

Physical restraint does not include physically escorting a student. Examples of a physical escort are: temporary touching or holding the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back of a student who is acting out, for the purpose of encouraging the student to walk to a safe location.

What is seclusion?

A student is considered to be secluded when all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student is placed in an **enclosed area** by school personnel.
2. The student is purposefully **isolated** from adults and peers.
3. The student is **prevented from leaving**, or reasonably believes that the student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.

No student may be put in seclusion unless supervised by a school employee at all times.

Is Time-out or In-school suspension considered seclusion?

Time-out is **not** seclusion. Time out is defined in the regulations as a behavioral intervention in which the student is temporarily removed from a learning activity without being confined.

In-school suspension is **not** seclusion. In-school suspension does not involve the student being isolated from adults and peers and thus does not meet the definition of seclusion.