



District School Board
Ontario North East

Procedure No. 2.1.21

Section 2.1: School Related Operations

**Related References: Procedure Manual for the
Use of Physical Containment**

Appendices: A, B

Approved:

Revised:

Review Date:

TITLE: PHYSICAL CONTAINMENT

Procedure Manual for the use of Physical Containment

The Physical Intervention/Containment Procedures (Appendix A) clearly outlines the District School Board Ontario North East directives in the following areas.

1. Introduction
2. Definition of Physical Intervention/Containment
3. Unacceptable Practices Related to Physical Intervention/Containment
4. Situations that Warrant the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment
5. Staff Training Required for the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment
6. Debriefing Practices
7. Documentation of Use of Physical Intervention/Containment
8. Physical Intervention/Containments as Part of the Student Individual Education Safety Plan
9. Parental Involvement in the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment

All use of physical intervention/containment and all physical intervention/containment initiatives will be subject to the District School Board Ontario North East Physical Intervention/Containment Procedures Manual.

1. Introduction:

As educators, our primary goal is to promote the development of each individual to their fullest potential. In doing so, we must preserve the dignity of each student at all times. District School Board Ontario North East is committed to the concept of using the least restrictive and intrusive approaches to dealing with unsafe student behaviour. This involves the use of proactive strategies as much as possible in dealing with concerning/unsafe behaviour.

Physical intervention/containment should be used only if warranted (Refer to #4). Placing an emergency call to 911 is always an option in a crisis situation.

For students at the secondary level, physical intervention/containment is NOT recommended. There may be exceptions for students with autism or developmental disabilities where physical intervention/containment is carefully considered as part of their Individual Safety Plan.

2. Definition of Physical Intervention/Containment:

Physical intervention/containment of a student as outlined by Behaviour Management Systems (BMS), supports the use of the least intrusive intervention necessary until safety has been re-established. Physical intervention refers to use of appropriate responses by staff to student physical aggression/violence. (i.e. hair pulling, biting, hitting or kicking) Physical containment is defined as the safe containment of a student by two persons using the appropriate, small student or large student containment as described by BMS.

3. Unacceptable Practices Related to Physical Intervention/Containment:

- Any action that is punitive in nature
- Any action that could result in restriction of breathing
- Withdrawal of basic needs and rights
- Involvement in containment measures, any untrained staff, or any staff unwilling or unable to perform the containment techniques
- Shaking, shoving or other forms of physical aggression
- Requiring or forcing a student to repeat physical movements
- Use of physical intervention/containment to gain compliance

4. Situations that Warrant the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment:

- The student presents an **imminent risk of injury** to self and/or others
- All other **non-physical interventions have been unsuccessful** (including removing the target)
- Physical intervention presents **less of a risk of injury** than the inappropriate behaviour.

5. Staff Training Required for the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment:

- It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that annual training in the use of physical intervention/containment is provided to appropriate staff members.
- Training in the use of behaviour management techniques and physical intervention/containment is an annual requirement for Educational Assistants and may include training for teachers and administrators as required.
- In-service training sessions should be conducted by certified trainers who may be employees of District School Board Ontario North East.
- Training should include the following components:
 - Review of on-line materials/resources
 - Theoretical perspectives
 - Educational context
 - Legislation compliance
 - The 4 phases of behaviour management
 1. Information gathering phase
 2. Action phase
 3. Physical intervention/containment strategies
 4. Review and debriefing stage.

6. Debriefing Practices:

- For students who have the ability to understand the consequences of their actions, a debriefing meeting should be convened before the student returns to the classroom. This meeting could include, as appropriate for the situation, the student, teachers, principal, administrators, support staff, counsellors and parents or guardians. The aim of this meeting is to restore positive communication through the discussion of the feelings of all involved, as well as possible alternative actions more appropriate than unsafe behaviour.
- In some cases, students or parents who have witnessed a particularly disturbing event of the physical intervention/containment of another student may benefit from an informal debriefing meeting to create an opportunity for positive counselling and the sharing of perceptions and feelings.

All staff involved in an incident of physical intervention/containment should meet as soon as possible after the incident. The purpose of the staff debriefing meeting is to discuss, listen and validate one another's feelings regarding the incident. It may also be appropriate, at the staff debriefing meeting, to evaluate the collective response to the incident and effectiveness of the student's safety plan/success plan. The debrief meeting should be convened by the principal and should involve the staff involved in the event, as appropriate to the situation.

7. Documentation of the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment:

- The principal will ensure completion of, file and forward a Use of Physical Intervention/Containment Incident Report Form (Appendix A) to the appropriate District School Board Ontario North East personnel and parent or guardian.
- The principal will forward an Ontario School Boards Insurance Exchange Form and/or a Worker's Safety Insurance Board Form and/or a Violent Incident Report to the appropriate District School Board Ontario North East personnel **IF** any injury has resulted from the use of physical intervention/Containment.

8. Physical Intervention/Containment as Part of the Student Individual Safety Plan (ISP):

There may be a few students who, because of a potential need for de-escalation strategies, physical intervention and/or containment, will require notation in their Individual Safety Plan (I.S.P.)

The I.S.P. should clearly outline the purpose of intervention/containment and the conditions of its use. It may be developed in consultation with educational and outside agency staff involved as well as the parents or guardians of students under the age of 18 years.

Components of the Individual Safety Plan (I.S.P./ Appendix B) may be included in the Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) as an alternative area of behaviour programming, outlining clear expectations and strategies to support an increase in positive student behaviours.

9. Parental Involvement in the Use of Physical Intervention/Containment:

- Parents or guardians are to be informed as soon as possible after each incident of physical intervention/containment involving their child.
- Parents or guardians should be invited to debriefing meetings following an incident involving their child.
- In some cases, the parents or guardians of students who have witnessed a significant incident of aggression/violence, possibly involving physical intervention and/or a containment, should be informed of the general circumstances. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- Parents or guardians of students who have required containment will receive a copy of the Physical Intervention/Containment Incident Report Form (Appendix A) and the Individualized Safety Plan Form (Appendix B), if applicable.

Persons/Agencies Contacted following the Incident

Additional Comments and Debriefing Notes

Signature of Principal

cc. Parent or Guardian
Superintendent of Education
Original to O.S.R.



INDIVIDUAL SAFETY PLAN

Student's Name	
Date of Birth	
Date of Individual Safety Plan	
Review Date	
Staff Involved in Drafting Plan	

Objectives of the Safety Plan

Signs that Anxiety/Agitation is Increasing

Preliminary Staff Response to Anxiety/Agitation

Physical Intervention/Containment Procedures to be Used

Follow Up Procedures to be Used

Signature of Principal

cc. Parent or Guardian
Superintendent of Education
Original to Individual Education Plan/Personal Safety Section