

NUAMES Early College High School Emergency Safety Intervention Policy

Purpose

This policy ensures that NUAMES Early College High School complies with Utah Code 53G-8-301 and the Utah State Board of Education's rules regarding emergency safety interventions (ESIs), physical restraint, and seclusion. The goal is to protect the safety of all students and staff while using the least restrictive methods possible.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, terms like *corporal punishment*, *emergency safety intervention*, *physical escort*, *physical restraint*, and *seclusion* are defined as in Utah Code 53G-8-301(1).

General Policy

1. NUAMES prohibits the use of corporal punishment in any form.
2. Emergency safety interventions, including physical restraint or seclusion, may only be used when:
 - A student presents an immediate and significant danger to self or others.
 - Less restrictive interventions have been tried and failed or are determined to be ineffective in the situation.
3. Staff members must always start with the least restrictive intervention, such as verbal de-escalation or a physical escort, before considering restraint or seclusion.

Appropriate Use of Physical Restraint

Physical restraint is allowed **only**:

- In self-defense.
- To obtain possession of a dangerous object.
- To protect a student or another individual from physical injury.
- To remove a violent student from a situation.
- To protect property when physical safety is at risk.

Physical restraint must:

- Be reasonable and necessary.
- Be discontinued as soon as the immediate danger has passed.
- Never be used as punishment, retaliation, coercion, or staff convenience.

Seclusion

1. NUAMES has historically never used seclusion and prohibits the use of seclusion except as an emergency safety intervention for students in grades 10 and higher, and only under the following conditions:
 - The student poses an immediate and significant threat to self or others.
 - All less restrictive interventions have failed.
 - A staff member familiar with the student supervises the student at all times.
 - Seclusion is limited to **30 minutes maximum** and is continuously monitored.
2. When seclusion is used, staff must:
 - Document the reason for seclusion, its duration, and alternative interventions attempted.
 - Notify the parent or guardian **immediately, and no later than 15 minutes** after the intervention.
 - Conduct a debriefing with all involved staff, the student, and the parent.

Prohibited Practices

- Corporal punishment, as defined by Utah law.
- Using seclusion or restraint for discipline, coercion, retaliation, humiliation, or due to insufficient staffing.
- Any practice that violates Utah Code 53G-8-301.

Staff Training

- All staff members shall receive annual training on de-escalation techniques, proper use of physical restraint, and emergency safety interventions.
- Training will align with state board standards and be documented by administration.

Data Collection & Reporting

- NUAMES will record and report all incidents of emergency safety interventions, including:
 - Duration, purpose, and methods used.
 - Alternative strategies attempted.
 - Student demographics (e.g., age, grade, disability status).
 - Confirmation of staff training.
- Data will be reviewed annually and reported to the State Board of Education as required.

Compliance & Enforcement

- Violations of this policy will be taken seriously, with administrative action, retraining, or disciplinary measures for staff who fail to comply.
- Any violations that meet the definition of unlawful detention under Utah law will be reported to law enforcement and the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission.