

The River East Transcona School Division believes the best learning and behaving takes place in a safe, caring, and respectful environment. The division recognizes its responsibility to promote safe, caring, and respectful learning environments for students, staff, and the community.

In providing a safe environment for all students, it is necessary to have a continuum of supports, services, and interventions for all students including those who exhibit challenging behaviour.

In all decisions, the best interest of the child is the primary consideration. Divisional employees may, within the scope of employment, use reasonable and appropriate physical intervention or holds as a safety response in situations when a student poses an immediate risk,

- to seriously harm themselves;
- to seriously harm others;
- for the purpose of self-protection.

Schools shall follow the *Guidelines for the Use of Holds* outlined below.

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF HOLDS

Positive and proactive strategies are the first methods for addressing challenging behaviour. A continuum of interventions designed to de-escalate behaviours should be listed in the student's Behaviour Intervention Plan (BIP). These interventions include proactive and reactive classroom management strategies with the goal being both to address the student's challenging behaviour and to teach new replacement behaviour.

In critical or crisis situations, it may be necessary to use specific de-escalating techniques, which may include holds, in order to ensure a safe environment and to assist the student in gaining control. These techniques are included in the *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*® training model.

Holds are the most invasive of the physical interventions. This technique involves an adult (or adults) taking bodily control of a student who is physically out of control. At this point, the student is not exercising rational thought or action and requires assistance. In these situations, a team approach is essential to ensure safety and professionalism.

Note: If a hold is to be used as part of the student's safety plan, it must be included in the BIP. Part of the BIP must include the development of a school response plan which outlines a system for obtaining extra help when dealing with a student who poses an immediate risk to seriously harm themselves or others.

The use of a hold shall be debriefed with the student following any intervention. It is important that school personnel review the incident and the response and determine approaches and interventions that may be used in the future.

Each incident of a hold shall be reported to school administration and documented using Exhibit JICDAA-E1 – Use of Hold Form and entered into My referrals. A copy shall be forwarded to the principal and Safe Schools Consultant. If a hold is used frequently and/or is of high intensity, the BIP will need to be reviewed.

Staff members who may be required to use holds based on a student's BIP need to have received NCI[®] training in use of holds.

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| Board Motion(s): | 51/08; 172/18;7/22 | |
| Legal/Cross Reference: | JICDAA-E1 Use of Hold Form | |
