

NOVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY
MANUAL OF POLICIES APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Policy 532

USE OF PEACE OFFICERS AND CRISIS TEAMS TO REMOVE STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]

[Note: Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 96, made a number of changes to the laws and rules governing the use of “conditional procedures” with respect to special education students. Specifically, Chapter 96 repealed, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2011, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.66, 121A.67, Subd. 1, as well as Minn. Rules 3525.0210, Subparts 5, 6, 9, 13, 17, 29, 30, 46, 47, and 3525.2900, Subp. 5. These laws and rules were replaced, effective August 1, 2011, with a restrictive procedures law which generally addresses the restraint of special education students. Also note that the restrictive procedures law contains a significant staff training component, found at Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942, Subds. 1, 2, and 5. Staff who intend to use restrictive procedures must be trained in the areas specified in Subd. 5 to use these procedures.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to describe the appropriate use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove, if necessary, a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) from school grounds.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Nova Classical is committed to promoting learning environments that are safe for all members of the Nova Classical community. It further believes that students are the first priority and that they should be reasonably protected from physical or emotional harm at all school locations and during all school activities.

In general, all students, including those with IEPs, are subject to the terms of Nova Classical’s discipline policy. School administrators have the leadership responsibility to maintain a safe, secure, and orderly educational environment within which learning can occur. Corrective action to discipline a student and/or modify a student’s behavior will be taken by staff when a student’s behavior violates Nova Classical’s discipline policy.

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which, in the judgment of school personnel, endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, that student may be removed from school grounds in accordance with this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined as:

- A. **Student with an IEP or the student** means a student who is eligible to receive special education and related services pursuant to the terms of an IEP or an Individual Interagency Intervention Plan (IIIP).
- B. **Peace officer** means an employee or an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision or law enforcement agency who is licensed by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, charged with the prevention and detection of crime, and the enforcement of general criminal laws of the state and who has the full power of arrest. The term peace officer includes a person who serves as a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police officer, or a state patrol trooper.
- C. **Police liaison officer** is a peace officer who, pursuant to an agreement between Nova Classical and a political subdivision or law enforcement agency, is assigned to a school building for all or a portion of the school day to provide law enforcement assistance and support to the building administration and to promote school safety, security, and positive relationships with students.
- D. **Crisis team** means a group of persons, which may include teachers and non-teaching school personnel, selected by the administrator in each school who have received crisis intervention training and are responsible for becoming actively involved with resolving crises.
- E. The phrase **remove the student from school grounds** is the act of securing the person of a student with an IEP and escorting that student from the school building or school activity at which the student with an IEP is located.
- F. **Emergency** means a situation where immediate intervention is needed to protect a child or other individual from physical injury.
- G. All other terms and phrases used in this policy shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary and customary usage.

IV. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

A. Removal By Crisis Team

If the behavior of a student with an IEP escalates to the point where the student's behavior endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, the school building's crisis team may be summoned. The crisis team may attempt to de-escalate the student's behavior by means including, but not limited to, those described in the student's IEP and/or behavior intervention plan. When such measures fail, or when the crisis team determines that the student's behavior continues to endanger or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the

student, other students, staff members, or school property, the crisis team may remove the student from school grounds.

If the student's behavior cannot be safely managed, school personnel may immediately request assistance from the police liaison officer or a peace officer.

B. Removal By Police Liaison Officer or Peace Officer

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, the school's crisis team, school administrator, or school administrator's designee, may request that the police liaison officer or a peace officer remove the student from school grounds.

If a student with an IEP is restrained or removed from a classroom, school building, or school grounds by a police liaison officer or peace officer at the request of a school administrator or school staff person during the school day twice in a 30-day period, the student's IEP team must meet to determine if the student's IEP is adequate or if additional evaluation is needed.

Whether or not a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, school district personnel may report a crime committed by a student with an IEP to appropriate authorities. If Nova Classical reports a crime committed by a student with an IEP, school personnel shall transmit copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student for consideration by appropriate authorities to whom a crime has been reported, to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and Nova Classical's policy Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

[Note: If the school district uses a different reference name for its student records policy, insert that name in place of the reference to Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, which is the title of MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515.]

The fact that a student with an IEP is covered by special education law does not prevent state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with an IEP.

C. Reasonable Force Permitted

In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, a school administrator, other crisis team members, or the police liaison officer or other agents of Nova Classical, whether or not members of a crisis team, may use

reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, police liaison officers and Nova Classical personnel are further prohibited from engaging in the following conduct:

1. Corporal punishment prohibited by Minnesota Statute section 121A.58;
2. Requiring a child to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain;
3. Totally or partially restricting a child's senses as punishment;
4. Denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, wheel chairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate the child's functioning, except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;
5. Interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under Minnesota Statute section 626.556;
6. Physical holding (as defined in Minnesota Statute section 125A.0941) that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe, restricts or impairs a child's ability to communicate distress, places pressure or weight on a child's head, throat, neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen, or results in straddling a child's torso;
7. Withholding regularly scheduled meals or water; and/or
8. Denying a child access to toilet facilities.

D. Parental Notification

The school administrator or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the student's removal from school grounds as soon as possible following the removal and no later than the end of the school day.

E. Continued Removals; Review of IEP

Continued and repeated use of the removal process described herein must be reviewed in the development of the individual student's IEP or IIIP.

F. Effect of Policy in an Emergency; Use of Restrictive Procedures

A student with an IEP may be removed in accordance with this policy regardless of whether the student's conduct would create an emergency.

If Nova Classical seeks to remove a student with an IEP from school grounds under this policy due to behaviors that constitute an emergency and the student's IEP, IIIP, or behavior intervention plan authorizes the use of one or more restrictive procedures, the crisis team may employ those restrictive procedures, in addition to any reasonable force that may be necessary, to facilitate the student's removal from school grounds, as long as the crisis team members who are implementing the restrictive procedures have received the training required by Minnesota Statute section 125A.0942, subdivision 5, and otherwise comply with the requirements of section 125A.0942.

G. Reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Annually, stakeholders may recommend, as necessary, to the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures. The Commissioner must submit to the Legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of seclusion. By January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year, districts must report, in a form and manner determined by the Commissioner, about individual students who have been secluded. By July 15 each year, districts must report summary data. The summary data must include information on the use of restrictive procedures for the prior school year, July 1 through June 30, including the use of reasonable force by school personnel that is consistent with the definition of physical holding or seclusion of a child with a disability.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.67 (Removal by Police Officer)
Minn. Stat. §§ 125A.094-125A.0942 (Restrictive Procedures for Children with Disabilities)
Minn. Stat. § 609.06 (Authorized Use of Force)
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Permitted Actions)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA))
20 U.S.C. § 1415(k)(6) (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
34 C.F.R. § 300.535 (Referral to and Action by Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)

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