



# RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## **Seclusion and Physical Restraint Report 2023-2024**

Wisconsin Act 125 prohibits the use of seclusion or physical restraint except when certain conditions apply. With Act 125, schools are asked to report and maintain data on seclusion and physical restraint. Through an analysis of the data collected, educators can identify patterns of using seclusion and restraint, review practices used in seclusion and restraint and evaluate the impact of interventions in preventing seclusions or restraints. Using the data collected will provide a framework to reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) defines “physical restraint” as a restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to freely move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head. The DPI defines “seclusion” as the involuntary confinement of a student, apart from other students, in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving.

Data was gathered from the following locations for analysis:

- River Valley Early Learning Center
- River Valley Elementary
- River Valley Middle School
- River Valley High School
- St. John the Evangelist Catholic School – private school
- St. Luke Catholic School – private school
- Sauk County Adolescent Needs (SCAN) – alternative school
- New Frontier Academy – alternative school

During the 2023-2024 school year:

- There were 7 students who were involved in 19 instances of seclusion.
  - Of the total students, 6 of the 7 were special education students.
  - 19 of these instances occurred at River Valley Elementary.
- There were 6 students who were involved in 51 instances of physical restraint.
  - Of the total students, 6 of the 6 students were special education students.
  - 10 of these instances occurred at River Valley Elementary.
  - 41 of these instances occurred at New Frontier Academy.

In all instances, the staff members involved were trained in the Crisis Prevention Institution’s (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® (NVCi) training program. The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training program is a comprehensive crisis management system based on the philosophy of providing the best care for the welfare, safety, and security for students and staff, even during the most violent behavioral outbursts. The Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® training program emphasizes early intervention and nonphysical methods for preventing and/or managing disruptive behavior. This program provides training which focuses on prevention as well as appropriate physical interventions to be used only as a last resort when an individual presents an imminent danger to self or others. This training teaches skills needed to confidently and competently intervene in a crisis situation.

The district brought this training to River Valley on February 16, 2024 and trained all staff in the NVCi de-escalation training to improve preventative strategies before seclusion or restraint becomes necessary. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the second half of NVCi that focused on appropriate physical interventions was offered to specific staff who have a higher chance of being in crisis situations. Staff that were invited included administration, building ABC’s, special education teachers, nursing staff, school counselors, staff on crisis teams, and other select individuals identified by building administrators.

Special education teachers were provided additional training around seclusion and restraint in regards to the paperwork requirements and need to hold an IEP meeting after the second use of seclusion or restraint. Special education instructional assistants at the ELC and RVE were provided training focusing on the legal requirements around Wisconsin Act 125.

During the spring of 2022-23 school year, additional training in seclusion and restraint was given this school year to the River Valley Elementary School staff. This training was revisited on an individual basis as many staff referenced its content throughout the 2023-24 school year. In addition, research-based social-emotional curriculum was once again purchased and incorporated on a weekly basis this school year in grades K-8 in order to help address the increase in behavioral and mental health issues seen across the district, state and the nation since the pandemic.

River Valley Elementary built a safe seclusion space in compliance with legal guidelines. This has helped increase both staff and student safety during crisis situations.

While the total numbers have increased in the area of physical restraint, this data now includes alternative school sites including New Frontier Academy and SCAN. This data is only reflective of River Valley students attending there for their educational placement. When reflecting on the total data from the 2022-23 school year, the amount of total seclusions (23) and restraints (23) used on the River Valley campus are on a downward trend.