



Date of Issue	June 30, 2008
Original Date of Issue	February 23, 1990
Subject	PHYSICAL CONTAINMENT: GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO INJURIOUS AND SELF-INJURIOUS STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
References	Ministry of Education, Individual Education Plans Standards for Development, Program Planning and Implementation 2002 APM A2310 Injuries to Students and Visitors APM A2320 Reporting of Workplace Injury – Illness APM A7100 Violent Incidents – Response Procedures APM A7630 Code of Conduct
Links	FORM A1440 - 1
Contact	School Services; Instructional Services – Special Education

1. General

The Simcoe County District School Board recognizes its responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff. Administrative Procedures Memorandum A7630 Code of Conduct addresses many issues related to safety.

This guideline for Physical Containment Techniques provides a consistent response to injurious and self-injurious student behaviour. This guideline recognizes that when safety is an issue there may be situations where physical containment (as a last resort) may be necessary to ensure safety for all.

2. Physical Containment Principles

Physical containment is a safety procedure whereby staff physically contain a child/youth who is posing an imminent and acute risk to himself/herself or others. As a last resort, the SCDSB supports staff in the crisis management of a child's behaviour through the use of pre-determined and approved physical containment techniques as defined in Behaviour Management Systems Training.

These physical containment techniques are meant to keep self and others safe. These containment techniques include: "small student containment" and "larger student containment". (Behaviour Management Systems Training, 2007)

The use of physical containment in Simcoe County District School Board schools is a last resort and will be guided by the following principles:



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- 2.1 In all situations, it is the intent of the Simcoe County District School Board to provide the best possible care and to ensure the welfare, safety, and security of all involved.
 - 2.2 Physical containment will not be used as a tool to manage uncooperative behaviour. Furthermore, physical containment will not be used as a punishment, nor will it be used as a means to inflict pain. Physical containment will not be used as a means to prevent property destruction unless that destruction poses a serious, imminent and acute risk of bodily injury to the student and/or others.
 - 2.3 Whenever possible, attempts will be made to prevent or defuse potentially injurious behaviour through non-physical prevention and/or intervention techniques.
 - 2.4 Physical containment shall only be employed as a last resort when all other less restrictive measures have been exhausted and there is an imminent and acute risk of injury to self or others.
 - 2.5 Any physical containment will be used to manage a student's behaviour only until that student no longer creates/poses an imminent risk of serious bodily injury to self or others.
 - 2.6 The physical containment used will be the least invasive level of the specific containment technique.
 - 2.7 If any form of physical containment is required then a debriefing and an individual student Safety Plan must be developed or reviewed in consultation with the student, parent, and staff (may include a registered psychologist, psychological associate, partner agencies, BMS trainers, etc.) If the safety of any one is compromised then the involvement of outside support including police or other agencies may be necessary.
 - 2.8 All incidents of physical containment must be documented by the team leader who actually supervised the containment using FORM A1440 - 1 Physical Containment Reporting Form. This documentation must be reviewed by:
 - 2.8.1 the school principal
 - 2.8.2 the regional principal of special education
 - 2.8.3 the area superintendent of education
 - 2.9 There may be instances where physical containment will not be utilized as it may result in the escalation of injurious behaviours and/or pose a risk to the student (e.g., medical conditions, emotional disturbance, trauma, anxiety disorders).



3. Guidelines

3.3 Staff Training

Board staff that intervene with a student who has lost control of his or her behaviour are potentially vulnerable to personal injury. To reduce the chance of injury to staff, Board sponsored Behaviour Management Systems Training (BMST) for both prevention and intervention strategies will be offered to board staff that are most likely to support a student in crisis.

BMS Training is required for all teachers, support staff and administrators working directly with students with significant behavioural needs. Other staff, who regularly work with students in crisis, may also benefit from this training. It is the principal's responsibility to ensure that those staff who are most likely to work with students with significant behavioural needs receive BMS training. In addition, the principal through the regional principal of special education, will make protective equipment available for staff as necessary and appropriate.

3.4 Unanticipated Containment For Emergency Intervention

3.4.1 Use of Judgment to Determine the Appropriateness of Containment

The decision to use physical containment in an unanticipated situation for emergency intervention is a matter of professional judgment. In making the decision about whether or not to use physical containment, the following factors are relevant:

- 3.4.1.1 imminent risk of injury to self or others;
- 3.4.1.2 options available other than containment to maintain safety;
- 3.4.1.3 student's Safety Plan;
- 3.4.1.4 availability of external support (e.g. police, CAS);
- 3.4.1.5 characteristics of the staff member and the student (size, age, strength, gender);
- 3.4.1.6 previous history of the student (special needs, patterns of behaviour, health, etc.);
- 3.4.1.7 staff training, confidence and willingness to intervene; and
- 3.4.1.8 physical setting.

3.4.2 Safety First

- 3.4.2.1 Physical containment will only be used when the safety of the student or the safety of others is endangered.
- 3.4.2.2 It is imperative that physical containment be used in such a way that the risk of injury to all parties is minimized.
- 3.4.2.3 In applying physical containment in a safe manner, the intent is to protect, not to punish or cause pain.



3.4.3 Team Approach

Each school is to ensure that it has staff that have Behaviour Management Systems Training. In implementing a containment procedure a team approach is preferred. A team consists of two or more people. This approach addresses the safety of all concerned. In addition, it allows for some flexibility in supervising others in the vicinity of the incident.

3.5 Containment as a Component of a Safety Plan

3.5.1 Safety Plan

The potential to use physical containment may be a necessary component as part of a Safety Plan for a student with special education needs. In this case, physical containment would be the last resort in a series of least intrusive to most intrusive behaviour management strategies used with that student. The Safety Plan should clearly outline the purpose of the containment and the conditions of its use and be developed in consultation with the parent/guardian.

4. Parent/Guardian Involvement

When physical containment is used, the parents or guardians of students under 18 are to be made aware of the incident as soon as possible.

In addition, professional judgment should be used to determine if any of the following may be appropriate:

- 4.1 contact the Regional Principal of Special Education for proactive programming support;
- 4.2 referral to the Area Special Education Team for assistance in assessing the situation;
- 4.3 contact the Children's Aid Society for students under the age of 16 for information or support;
- 4.4 contact the local police for support.



5. Documentation

- 5.1 Documenting the use of physical containment is necessary for both planning and accountability. The Physical Containment Incident Report (FORM A1440 - 1) will be completed for all incidents where physical containment is used.
 - 5.1.1 If any staff injury results, complete and submit the (WSIB) form as per APM A2320 – REPORTING OF WORKPLACE INJURY - ILLNESS.
 - 5.1.2 If any student or member of the public is injured, complete and submit the OSBIE Incident Report Form as per APM A2310 – INJURIES TO STUDENTS AND VISITORS.
 - 5.1.3 If the physical containment is in response to a serious violent incident, complete and submit the Violent Incident Form as per APM A7100 – VIOLENT INCIDENTS – RESPONSE PROCEDURES

6. Debriefing and Follow-up

All behaviour incidents place stress on staff and students. Each individual responds to these incidents in a way that is unique to that individual. Review and debriefing strategies will vary with the nature of the school, program and staff allocations. However, it is important to note that the Ministry of Labour requires post incident response procedures for school staff who work with students whose behaviour presents safety risks. The incident response procedures are to inform both the immediate response and also be a component in developing new prevention/intervention strategies.

- 6.1 Whenever a physical containment is used the parent must be contacted that same day before the student is sent home from school.
- 6.2 There are two types of debriefing that should occur following a containment.
- 6.3 Student Debriefing
 - There must be readiness on the part of the student to participate in the debriefing. This debriefing must be facilitated in order to accommodate the needs of the student where necessary. The parent or guardian of the student must be invited to attend.
 - The purpose of this debriefing will be to:
 - 6.3.1 gain an understanding of the incident from the student's perspective;
 - 6.3.2 validate and empathize with the student's feelings;
 - 6.3.3 discuss any unresolved emotional distress about the incident; and
 - 6.3.4 negotiate alternative responses for similar situations that might occur in the future.



6.4 Staff Debriefing

The staff debriefing must be led by the principal or designate and preferably occur the same day as the incident. The purpose of the staff debriefing is to:

- 6.4.1 assess the staff's ability to support the student in a positive manner;
- 6.4.2 gain an understanding of the incident from the staff's perspective;
- 6.4.3 validate and empathize with the staff's feelings;
- 6.4.4 discuss any unresolved emotional distress about the incident;
- 6.4.5 evaluate the effectiveness of the response; and
- 6.4.6 discuss alternative responses for similar situations that might occur in the future.

Following the Student and Staff Debriefing, the principal shall forward a copy of the completed Physical Containment Incident Report to the Regional Principal of Special Education and to the Area Superintendent of Education.

First Issued February 23, 1990

Revised April 23, 2003, September 2005, June 2008

Issued under the authority of the Director of Education



Physical Containment Incident Report

School Information

School _____

Principal (print name) _____

Completed by (print name) _____

Date of Report _____

Principal Signature _____

Date _____

Student Information

_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
	M	F		
Student (name)	Gender		Age	Class/Grade

O.E.N
 Is the student currently on medication? Exceptionality (if applicable)
 Yes No
 Type: _____
 Comment: _____

Is there an existing Safety Plan? Yes No

Description of Incident

Date: _____ Time: _____ Specific Location: _____

Staff Directly Involved
(Include job title and time arrived at scene)

Staff Witnesses
(Include job title and time arrived at scene)

Observers (Students, Parents, Staff)

Pertinent circumstances precipitating physical containment.

Description of preventive measures used prior to physical containment.



Reason situation was judged unsafe and containment required.

Description of Physical Containment

Length of Physical Containment

Were there any Injuries/Damage to the student or to school property prior to the Physical Containment?

Yes

No

Description of Injuries/Damage.

Were there any Injuries/Damage to the student or to school property directly related to the Physical Containment?

Yes

No

Describe:

Injuries (if any) have been reported to:

No injuries

Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (Refer to APM A2310)

Workplace Safety & Insurance Act (WSIB) (Refer to APM A2320)

Notification Made: (Include date, time and person)

Name of Parent Contacted:

Date:

Time:

Area Superintendent Contacted:

Date:

Time:

Regional Principal of Special Education Contacted:

Date:

Time:

Student Debriefing Occurred:

Date:

Time:

Staff Debriefing Occurred:

Date:

Time:

Persons Involved:



Summary of debriefing meeting.

- Copies:**
- 1. Regional Principal of Special Education
 - 2. OSR
 - 3. Area Superintendent of Education

Personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the Education Act in accordance with the Education Act and Municipal Freedom of Information Actcomplete form.

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