

## 2022 Kansas Statutes

**72-6151. Freedom from unsafe restraint and seclusion act; citation.** K.S.A. 72-6151 through 72-6158, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the freedom from unsafe restraint and seclusion act.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 1; June 4.

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**72-6152. Definitions.** As used in K.S.A. 72-6151 through 72-6157, and amendments thereto:

- (a) "Appointing authority" means a group of persons empowered by statute to make human resource decisions that affect the employment of officers.
- (b) "Campus police officer" means a school security officer designated by the board of education of any school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-6146, and amendments thereto.
- (c) "Chemical restraint" means the use of medication to control a student's violent physical behavior or restrict a student's freedom of movement.
- (d) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education.
- (e) "Complaint" means a written document that a parent files with a local board as provided for in this act.
- (f) "Department" means the state department of education.
- (g) "Emergency safety intervention" means the use of seclusion or physical restraint, but does not include the use of time-out.
- (h) "Hearing officer" means the state department employee designated to conduct an administrative review.
- (i) "Incident" means each occurrence of the use of an emergency safety intervention.
- (j) "Law enforcement officer" and "police officer" means a full-time or part-time salaried officer or employee of the state, a county or a city, whose duties include the prevention or detection of crime and the enforcement of criminal or traffic law of this state or any Kansas municipality. This term includes a campus police officer.
- (k) "Legitimate law enforcement purpose" means a goal within the lawful authority of an officer that is to be achieved through methods or conduct condoned by the officer's appointing authority.
- (l) "Local board" means the board of education of a district or the governing body of any accredited nonpublic school.
- (m) "Mechanical restraint" means any device or object used to limit a student's movement.
- (n) "Parent" means: (1) A natural parent; (2) an adoptive parent; (3) a person acting as a parent as defined in K.S.A. 72-3122(d)(2), and amendments thereto; (4) a legal guardian; (5) an education advocate for a student with an exceptionality; (6) a foster parent, unless the student is a child with an exceptionality; or (7) a student who has reached the age of majority or is an emancipated minor.
- (o) "Physical escort" means the temporary touching or holding the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back of a student who is acting out for the purpose of inducing the student to walk to a safe location. Physical escort shall not be considered an emergency safety intervention.
- (p) "Physical restraint" means bodily force used to substantially limit a student's movement, except that consensual, solicited or unintentional contact and contact to provide comfort, assistance or instruction shall not be deemed to be physical restraint.
- (q) "School" means any learning environment, including any nonprofit institutional day or residential school or accredited nonpublic school, that receives public funding or which is subject to the regulatory authority of the state board of education.
- (r) "School resource officer" means a law enforcement officer or police officer employed by a local law enforcement agency who is assigned to a district through an agreement between the local law enforcement agency and the district.
- (s) "School security officer" means a person who is employed by a board of education of any school district for the purpose of aiding and supplementing state and local law enforcement agencies in which the school district is located, but is not a law enforcement officer or police officer.
- (t) "Seclusion" means placement of a student in a location where all the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The student is placed in an enclosed area by school personnel;
  - (2) the student is purposefully isolated from adults and peers; and
  - (3) the student is prevented from leaving, or the student reasonably believes that

such student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.

(u) "State board" means the Kansas state board of education.

(v) "Time-out" means a behavioral intervention in which a student is temporarily removed from a learning activity without being secluded.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 2; L. 2016, ch. 77, § 1; July 1.

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**72-6153. Use of emergency safety interventions; seclusion room requirements; school district policies; dispute resolution procedures.** (a) Emergency safety interventions shall be used only when a student presents a reasonable and immediate danger of physical harm to such student or others with the present ability to effect such physical harm. Less restrictive alternatives to emergency safety interventions, such as positive behavior interventions support, shall be deemed inappropriate or ineffective under the circumstances by the school employee witnessing the student's behavior prior to the use of any emergency safety interventions. The use of an emergency safety intervention shall cease as soon as the immediate danger of physical harm ceases to exist. Violent action that is destructive of property may necessitate the use of an emergency safety intervention. Use of an emergency safety intervention for purposes of discipline, punishment or for the convenience of a school employee shall not meet the standard of immediate danger of physical harm.

(b) A student shall not be subjected to an emergency safety intervention if the student is known to have a medical condition that could put the student in mental or physical danger as a result of the emergency safety intervention. The existence of such medical condition must be indicated in a written statement from the student's licensed health care provider, a copy of which shall be provided to the school and placed in the student's file. Such written statement shall include an explanation of the student's diagnosis, a list of any reasons why an emergency safety intervention would put the student in mental or physical danger and any suggested alternatives to the use of emergency safety interventions. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a student may be subjected to an emergency safety intervention, if not subjecting the student to an emergency safety intervention would result in significant physical harm to the student or others.

(c) When a student is placed in seclusion, a school employee shall be able to see and hear the student at all times.

(d) All seclusion rooms equipped with a locking door shall be designed to ensure that the lock automatically disengages when the school employee viewing the student walks away from the seclusion room, or in cases of emergency, such as fire or severe weather.

(e) A seclusion room shall be a safe place with proportional and similar characteristics as other rooms where students frequent. Such room shall be free of any condition that could be a danger to the student, and shall be well-ventilated and sufficiently lighted.

(f) The following types of restraint shall be prohibited:

(1) Prone, or face-down, physical restraint; supine, or face-up physical restraint; physical restraint that obstructs the airway of a student; or any physical restraint that impacts a student's primary mode of communication;

(2) chemical restraint, except as prescribed treatments for a student's medical or psychiatric condition by a person appropriately licensed to issue such treatments; and

(3) mechanical restraint, except those protective or stabilizing devices either ordered by a person appropriately licensed to issue the order for the device or required by law, any device used by a certified law enforcement officer in carrying out law enforcement duties, seatbelts and any other safety equipment when used to secure students during transportation.

(g) Each local board shall develop and implement written policies to govern the use of emergency safety interventions in schools. At a minimum, written district policies shall conform to the standards, definitions and requirements of this act.

Such written policies shall include that:

(1) (A) School personnel training shall be designed to meet the needs of personnel as appropriate to their duties and potential need for the use of emergency safety interventions;

(B) training shall address prevention techniques, de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral intervention strategies;

(C) training shall be consistent with nationally recognized training programs; and

(D) schools shall maintain written or electronic documentation on training provided

and lists of participants in each training for inspection by the Kansas state board of education;

(2) a local dispute resolution process shall be developed, which shall include the following:

(A) A procedure for a parent to file a complaint with the local board. If a parent believes that an emergency safety intervention has been used on the parent's child in violation of the act, rules and regulations or the local board's emergency safety intervention policy, the parent may file a complaint within 30 days of the date on which the parent was informed of the use of the emergency safety intervention;

(B) a procedure for complaint investigation;

(C) a procedure to implement a dispute-resolution final decision. The local board's decision shall be in writing and shall include findings of fact and any corrective action required by the school if the local board deems such action necessary. The local board's final decision shall be mailed to the parent and the department within 30 days of the the local board's receipt of the complaint; and

(D) a procedure setting out the parent's right to request an administrative review by the state board, including information as to the deadline by which the parent must submit the request to the state board;

(3) a system for the collection and maintenance of documentation for each use of an emergency safety intervention as set forth in K.S.A. 72-6154, and amendments thereto;

(4) a procedure for the periodic review of the use of emergency safety interventions at each school, which shall be compiled and submitted at least biannually to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee; and

(5) a schedule for when and how parents are provided with notice of the local board's written policies on the use of emergency safety interventions.

(h) Written policies developed pursuant to this act shall be accessible on each school's website and shall be included in each school's code of conduct, school safety plan or student handbook.

(i) (1) Campus police officers and school resource officers shall be exempt from the requirements of this act when engaged in an activity that has a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

(2) School security officers shall not be exempt from the requirements of this act.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 3; L. 2016, ch. 77, § 2; July 1.

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**72-6154. Parental notification; documentation of an incident; annual report.** (a) (1) When a student is subjected to an emergency safety intervention, the school shall notify the parent on the same day the emergency safety intervention was used. If the school is unable to contact the parent, the school shall attempt to contact the parent using at least two methods of contact. The same-day notification requirement of this subsection shall be deemed satisfied if the school attempts at least two methods of contact. A parent may designate a preferred method of contact to receive the same-day notification required by this subsection. A parent may agree, in writing, to receive only one same-day notification from the school for multiple incidents occurring on the same day. Written documentation of the use of an emergency safety intervention shall be completed and provided to the parent no later than the school day following the day on which the emergency safety intervention was used. Such written documentation shall include: (A) The events leading up to the incident; (B) student behaviors that necessitated the emergency safety intervention; (C) steps taken to transition the student back into the educational setting; (D) the date and time the incident occurred, the type of emergency safety intervention used, the duration of the emergency safety intervention and the school personnel who used or supervised the emergency safety intervention; (E) space or an additional form for parents to provide feedback or comments to the school regarding the incident; (F) a statement that invites and strongly encourages parents to schedule a meeting to discuss the incident and how to prevent future use of emergency safety interventions; and (G) email and phone information for the parent to contact the school to schedule the emergency safety intervention meeting. Schools may group incidents together when documenting the items in subparagraphs (A), (B) and (C) if the triggering issue necessitating the emergency safety interventions is the same.

(2) The parent shall be provided the following information after the first incident in which an emergency safety intervention is used during the school year, and may be provided such information after each subsequent incident that occurs during the school year: (A) A copy of the standards of when emergency safety interventions can be used; (B) a flyer on the parent's rights; (C) information on the parent's right to file a complaint through the local dispute resolution process and the complaint process of the state board of education; and (D) information that will assist the parent in navigating the complaint process, including contact information for the parent training and information center and protection and advocacy system. Upon the first occurrence of an incident involving the use of emergency safety interventions, the parent shall be provided the foregoing information in printed form or, upon the parent's written request, by email. Upon the occurrence of a second or subsequent incident, the parent shall be provided with a full and direct website address containing such information.

(b) If a school is aware that a law enforcement officer or school resource officer has used seclusion, physical restraint or mechanical restraint on a student, the school shall notify the parent the same day using the parent's preferred method of contact. A school shall not be required to provide written documentation to a parent, as set forth in subsection (a)(1) regarding law enforcement use of an emergency safety intervention, or report to the department law enforcement use of an emergency safety intervention. For purposes of this subsection, mechanical restraint includes, but is not limited to, the use of handcuffs.

(c) The department shall compile reports from schools on the use of emergency safety interventions and provide the results based on aggregate data on the department website, and to the governor and the committees on education in the senate and the house of representatives by January 20, 2016, and annually thereafter. The data governance board of the department shall use the actual data value when providing statewide aggregate data for such reports. The department's reported results shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following information:

- (1) The number of incidents in which emergency safety interventions were used on students who have an individualized education program;
- (2) the number of incidents in which emergency safety interventions were used on

students who have a section 504 plan;

(3) the number of incidents in which emergency safety interventions were used on students who do not have an individualized education program or a section 504 plan;

(4) the total number of incidents in which emergency safety interventions were used on students;

(5) the total number of students with behavior intervention plans subjected to an emergency safety intervention;

(6) the number of students physically restrained;

(7) the number of students placed in seclusion;

(8) the maximum and median number of minutes a student was placed in seclusion;

(9) the maximum number of incidents in which emergency safety interventions were used on a student;

(10) the information reported under subsection [subsections] (c)(1) through (c)(3) by the school to the extent possible;

(11) the information reported under subsections (c)(1) through (c)(9) aggregated by age, ethnicity, gender and eligibility for free and reduced lunch of the students on a statewide basis; and

(12) such other information as the department deems necessary to report.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 4; L. 2016, ch. 77, § 3; July 1.

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**72-6155. Parent's right to request meeting; required meetings.** (a) After each incident, a parent may request a meeting with the school to discuss and debrief the incident. A parent may request such meeting verbally, in writing or by electronic means. A school shall hold a meeting requested under this subsection within 10 school days of the parent's request. The focus of any meeting convened under this subsection shall be to discuss proactive ways to prevent the need for emergency safety interventions and to reduce incidents in the future.

(1) For a student who has an individualized education program or a section 504 plan, such student's individualized education program team or section 504 plan team shall discuss the incident and consider the need to conduct a functional behavioral analysis, develop a behavior intervention plan or amend either if already in existence. For a student with a section 504 plan, such student's section 504 plan team shall discuss and consider the need for an evaluation under the special education for exceptional children act, K.S.A. 72-3403 et seq., and amendments thereto. For students who have an individualized education program and are placed in a private school by a parent, a meeting called under this subsection shall include the parent and the private school, who shall consider whether the parent should request an individualized education program team meeting. If the parent requests an individualized education program team meeting, the private school shall help facilitate such meeting.

(2) For a student who does not have an individualized education program or section 504 plan, the parent and school shall discuss the incident and consider the appropriateness of a referral for an evaluation under the special education for exceptional children act, K.S.A. 72-3403 et seq., and amendments thereto, the need for a functional behavioral analysis or the need for a behavior intervention plan. Any meeting called pursuant to this subsection shall include the student's parent, a school administrator for the school where the student attends, one of the student's teachers, a school employee involved in the incident and such other school employees designated by the school administrator as appropriate for such meeting.

(b) The parent shall determine whether the student shall be invited to any meeting called pursuant to this section.

(c) The time for calling a meeting pursuant to this section shall be extended beyond the 10-school-day limit if the parent of the student is unable to attend within that time period.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the development and implementation of a functional behavioral analysis or a behavior intervention plan for any student if such student may benefit from such measures.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 5; L. 2016, ch. 77, § 4; July 1.



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**72-6156. Rules and regulations.** The state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this act on or before March 1, 2016. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, the standards for the use and reporting of emergency safety interventions as provided in K.S.A. 72-6152 through 72-6155, and amendments thereto.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 6; June 4.

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### 72-6157. Emergency safety intervention task force; membership; organization; duties. (a)

There is hereby established the emergency safety intervention task force. The task force shall consist of the 17 members appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members shall be appointed by the state board of education, one of which shall be a member of the state board of education and one of which shall be an attorney for the department;
  - (2) two members shall be appointed by the disability rights center of Kansas;
  - (3) two members shall be appointed by families together inc., one of which shall be a parent of a child with a disability;
  - (4) two members shall be appointed by keys for networking, inc., one of which shall be a parent of a child with a disability;
  - (5) two members shall be appointed by the special education advisory council;
  - (6) two members shall be appointed by the Kansas association of special education administrators;
  - (7) two members shall be appointed by the executive director of the Kansas council on developmental disabilities, one of which shall be a parent of a child with a disability;
  - (8) two members shall be appointed by the Kansas association of school boards, one of which shall be an attorney for the association; and
  - (9) one member shall be appointed by the center for child health and development of the university of Kansas medical center, who shall be a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas who is a practicing physician with experience treating and diagnosing individuals with disabilities, but who is not a staff member of the center for child health and development of the university of Kansas medical center.
- (b) The emergency safety intervention task force shall study and review the use of emergency safety interventions and prepare a report on its findings and recommendations concerning the use of such interventions. The task force's report shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature on or before January 20, 2016.
- (c) The member of the task force who is also a member of the state board of education shall call an organizational meeting of the task force on or before August 1, 2015. At such organizational meeting the members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the membership of the task force. The task force also shall consider dates for future meetings, the agenda for such meetings and the need for electing a facilitator to assist in discussions among the members of the task force.
- (d) The task force may meet at any time and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the task force shall be eight\* members. All actions of the task force shall be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum.
- (e) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid amounts for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 7; June 4.

\* A quorum should be nine members.

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**72-6158. Expiration of act.** The provisions of K.S.A. 72-6151 through 72-6158, and amendments thereto, shall expire on June 30, 2020.

**History:** L. 2015, ch. 72, § 8; L. 2016, ch. 77, § 5; July 1.