

## Background

### Context

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) is committed to clear and accurate reporting, and to improving systems to support the reduction of seclusion and restraint incidents. Prior to the pandemic, WCPSS staff became aware of concerns around data collection and reporting for seclusion and restraint. The district has been focused on addressing this systematically through identifying causes of disconnect in the data collection process and developing and implementing solutions.

A new seclusion and restraint reporting system was constructed. It was first piloted in special education with a focus on specialized programs as students returned to in person learning during the 2020-21 school year. The reporting system was released districtwide in August 2021.

Seclusion and restraint training is required to be completed by each staff member at the start of every school year. Any use of seclusion or restraint **MUST** be documented on the [Seclusion and Restraint form](#). This applies to all students, regardless of their age, setting, and/or identification.

### Definitions and Reporting Requirements

Federal and state definitions, as well as the reporting requirements, for seclusion and restraint are not the same; therefore the reportable numbers may differ by significant amounts. The chart below explains the federal and state definitions and reporting requirements.

Seclusion	Federal	State
	<p><b>Definition:</b> "The involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. It does not include a timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a</p>	<p><b>Definition:</b> "The confinement of a student <u>alone</u> in an enclosed spaced from which the student is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Physically prevented</u> from leaving by locking hardware or other means</li> <li>b. <u>Not capable of leaving</u> due to</li> </ul>

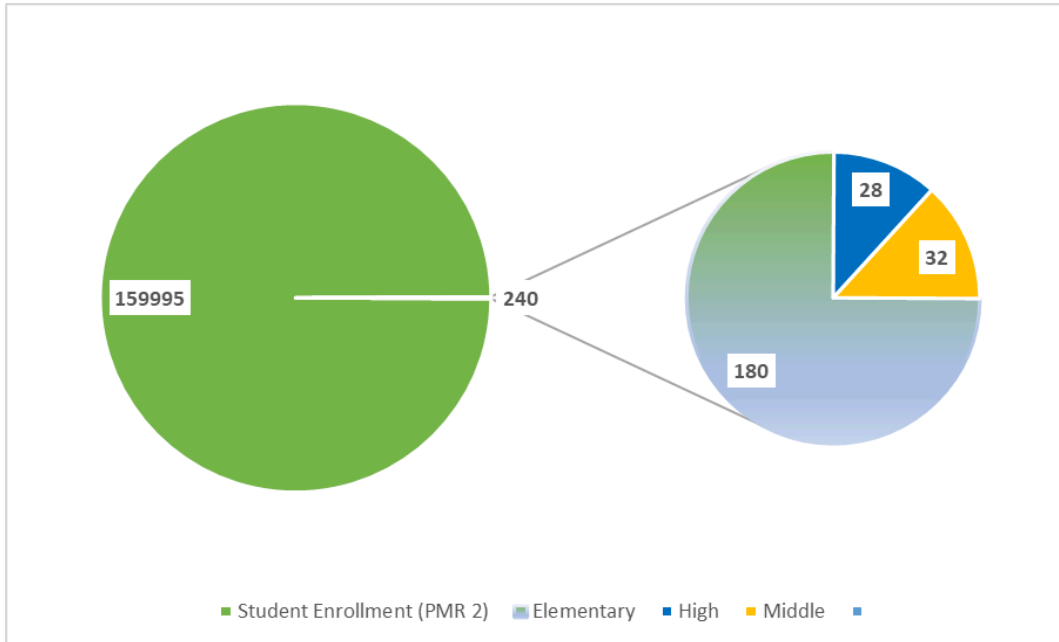
	<p>non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming."  <b>When to Report:</b> When a student is prevented from leaving an enclosed space</p>	<p>physical or intellectual incapacity."  <b>When to Report:</b> Any use exceeding ten (10) minutes, or the amount of time specified in the student's IEP or 504 Plan is considered impermissible and must be reported</p>
Mechanical Restraint	<p>Federal  <b>Definition:</b> "The use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. This term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed"  <b>When to Report:</b> Report any use of mechanical restraint, including if a student is handcuffed by the SRO and no arrest is made</p>	<p>State  <b>Definition:</b> "the use of any <u>device or material attached or adjacent to a student's body that restricts freedom of movement</u> or normal access to any portion of the student's body and that the student <u>cannot easily remove.</u>"  <b>When to Report:</b> Any mechanical restraint that involves the tying, taping, or strapping down of a student is considered impermissible and must be reported</p>
Physical Restraint	<p>Federal  <b>Definition:</b> "A personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head freely. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort."  <b>When to Report:</b> Report any use of physical restraint that does not solely include physical escorts</p>	<p>State  <b>Definition:</b> "the use of physical force to restrict the free movement of all or a portion of a student's body."  <b>When to Report:</b> Any use of physical restraint resulting in observable physical injury (no matter how minor the injury) to a student must be reported</p>

Aversive procedures are a systematic physical or sensory intervention that is used to modify behavior. Any intervention that results in physical harm and/or psychological impairment must be reported. Aversive procedures are illegal and strictly prohibited in WCPSS.

## Seclusion and Restraint Data

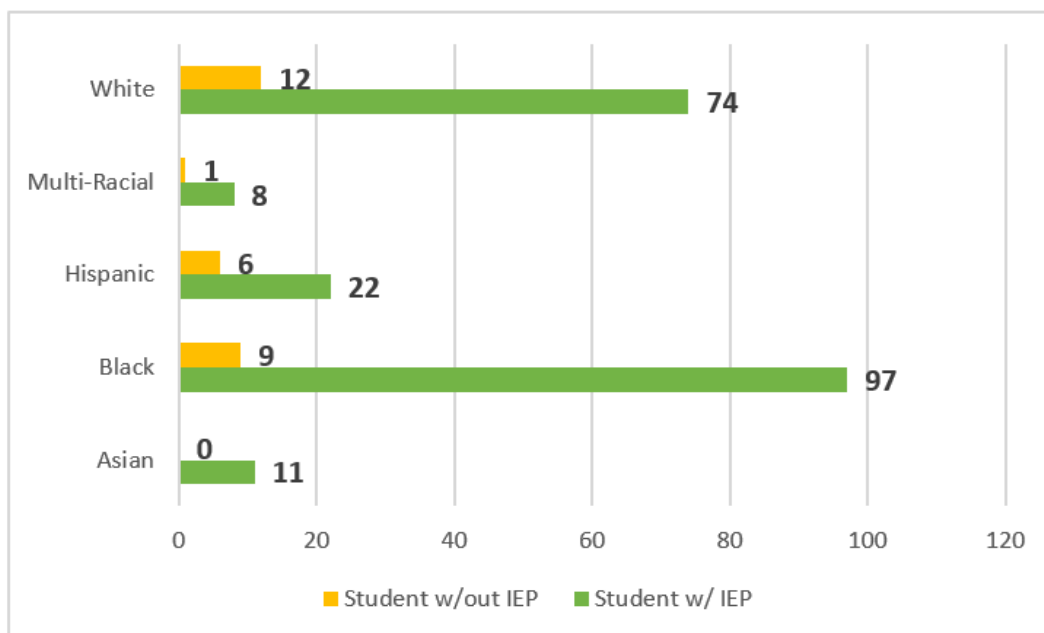
July through December 2023

Number of Students Involved in Seclusion and Restraint



A total of 240 students were involved in incidents of seclusion and restraint between July and December 2023. This represents less than 0.2% of the students enrolled in WCPSS.

Disaggregated Data by Demographics



A total of 212 students with IEPs represents approximately 1% of the WCPSS December 1 Child Count.

Reportable Acts of Seclusion and Restraint

The chart below indicates the numbers reported for Federal and State reporting purposes. Some individual incidents are reported in more than one category below. Note: Federal and state definitions, as well as the reporting requirements, for seclusion and restraint are not the same; therefore the reportable numbers may differ by significant amounts.

Federal Seclusion	58	State Seclusion	177
Federal Mechanical Restraint	7	State Mechanical Restraint	0
Federal Physical Restraint	616	State Physical Restraint	6
		State Aversive Action	0