

KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE

MISSISSIPPI'S RESTRAINT & SECLUSION POLICY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School districts across the state use restraint and seclusion techniques, disproportionately on children who have disabilities and belong to racial minorities. The Mississippi Department of Education has established Rule 38.13 Restraint and Seclusion, which regulates when and how public school employees can use force to handle student behavioral issues. School should be a safe place where our children are nurtured academically, emotionally, and socially. Students of any age, race, gender and ability should be treated with respect and dignity. Here are ten ways you can engage with your child's school this year to ensure the continued safety of your student(s).

1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS AND MAINTAIN CONSISTENT POSITIVE CONTACT AS PREVENTION.

Communication goes a long way to prevention by eliminating misunderstandings and dispelling misperceptions about behavior and academic achievement.

2. VISIT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL REGULARLY AND UNANNOUNCED.

Visibility at your child's school shows that you are engaged in promoting successful pathways for your child.

3. ASK YOUR CHILD DAILY ABOUT THEIR DAY.

Ask your child open ended questions to gain insight into their thoughts and feelings. What was the highlight of your day? What was the most interesting thing that happened today? What was the saddest part of your day? What did you learn today? What made you laugh? Etc.

4. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR LOGS DAILY.

Discuss/praise/correct/guide your child towards desired behavior positively and consistently.

5. ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, and always follow-up with your child's school personnel.

6. POSITIVELY SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER DAILY.

High expectations yield high results. Think of you and your child's teacher as a team, and expect a victory.

7. JOIN...

Your child's school PTA, PTSA, Booster Club, Parent P-16 Council, Etc.

8. VOLUNTEER...

Your time and talents to your child's/children's classroom and the school at large.

9. IDENTIFY AT LEAST TWO (2) ISSUES OR AREAS OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING IT.

Organize a small group of parents to advocate, address, and resolve those most concerning issues. Reach out for resources when necessary.

10. CONTACT THE ACLU OF MISSISSIPPI IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD'S RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED.

If you feel that your child's rights have been violated in any way, particularly as it relates to discipline or punishment, let us know.