

Student Discipline and Intervention Policy

Board Approved: August 2025

I. Purpose

Vista School is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all students. This policy outlines the appropriate use of Emergency Safety Interventions (ESIs) in accordance with Utah Code [§53G-8-301](#) and Utah State Board of Education (USBE) administrative rules.

II. Policy Statement

All Vista School employees shall implement student behavior interventions that prioritize dignity, de-escalation, and safety. Emergency Safety Interventions shall be used only when a student presents an immediate danger to themselves or others, and when less restrictive alternatives have been tried and failed or are clearly inappropriate.

III. Prohibited Practices

- A. Corporal punishment is strictly prohibited at Vista School under all circumstances.
- B. Emergency Safety Interventions shall never be used as:
 - 1. A means of discipline or punishment,
 - 2. A threat or form of intimidation,
 - 3. A convenience for staff.

IV. Use of Physical Restraint

- A. Physical restraint may only be used when:
 - 1. A student poses an immediate physical danger to themselves or others;
 - 2. Physical restraint should only be used when less restrictive alternatives have been tried and failed or are clearly inappropriate for the situation. and physical restraint is necessary, it must be used in a way that is consistent with state law;
 - 3. Any physical restraint must be performed without restricting the student's ability to breathe or communicate. The restraint must end as soon as the student is no longer a threat. Under no circumstances should restraint involve pain, pressure points, or prone (face-down) restraint.

- B. Restraint must be ended as soon as the student is no longer a threat.
- C. Whenever possible, trained personnel should be the ones to use physical restraint. Untrained staff should only use physical restraint in extreme circumstances to protect the student, other students, or employees.

V. Use of Seclusion

- A. The use of seclusion will not be used at Vista School.
- B. The use of seclusion will be revisited only if needed to fulfill the requirements of a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan.

VI. Data Collection and Reporting

Vista School will collect and maintain data for each instance in which an emergency safety intervention is used, including:

- A. Description of the incident,
- B. Type of intervention used,
- C. Duration of the intervention,
- D. Staff involved,
- E. Follow-up with the student and family.

This data shall be reported annually to the Utah State Board of Education in accordance with [§53G-8-301](#) and accompanying administrative rules.

VII. Notification and Parent Communication

- A. Parents or legal guardians shall be notified as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day, whenever an ESI is used with their child.
- B. A written incident report will be provided to the parent or guardian within 24 hours, including:
 - 1. The reason for the intervention,
 - 2. A description of the event and the intervention used,
 - 3. Any injuries sustained,
 - 4. Steps taken to prevent future incidents.

VIII. Staff Training and Review

- A. All staff will receive annual training on behavior de-escalation techniques, appropriate use of Emergency Safety Interventions, and prohibited practices.

- B. Incidents involving ESIs will be reviewed by administration to ensure policy compliance and support for involved students and staff.

IX. Legal Reference

- A. Utah Code [§53G-8-301](#) – Emergency Safety Interventions
- B. Utah Administrative Rules [R277-609](#) and related USBE guidance

X. Policy Review and Revisions

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually by the Director and the Vista Board and updated as needed to remain compliant with federal and Utah law and best practices.