

Policy #: <b>532</b>
Title: <b>USE OF PEACE OFFICERS AND CRISIS TEAMS TO REMOVE STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS</b>
Date of Initial Approval: 03-17-2004
Revision/Re-authorization Dates: 01-23-2014; 06-12-2018; 06-02-2021
Reviewers: MSA Superintendent; MSAB/MSAD Directors; MSA Director of Student Support Services

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to describe the appropriate use of peace officers and crisis teams to remove, if necessary, a student with an individualized education program (IEP) from the grounds of the Minnesota State Academies (MSA).

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

MSA is committed to promoting learning environments that are safe for all members of the school community. We further believe that students are the first priority and that they should be reasonably protected from physical or emotional harm at all school locations and during all school activities.

All students, including those with IEPs, are subject to the terms of MSA's discipline policy. MSA administrators and designees have the leadership responsibility to maintain a safe, secure, and orderly educational environment within which learning can occur. Corrective action to discipline a student and/or modify a student's behavior will be taken by staff when a student's behavior violates MSA's discipline policy.

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which, in the judgment of MSA administrators and designees, endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, that student may be removed from school grounds in accordance with this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the meaning given them in this section:

- A. "Student with an IEP" or "the student" means a student who is eligible to receive special education and related services pursuant to the terms of an IEP.
- B. "Peace officer" means an employee or an elected or appointed official of a political subdivision or law enforcement agency who is licensed by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, charged with the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of general criminal laws of the state and who has the full power of arrest. The term "peace officer" includes a person who serves as a sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police officer, or a state patrol trooper.

- C. "Police liaison officer" is a peace officer who, pursuant to an agreement between MSA and a political subdivision or law enforcement agency, is assigned to a school building for all or a portion of the school day to provide law enforcement assistance and support to the building administration and to promote school safety, security, and positive relationships with students.
- D. "Crisis team" means a group of persons, which may include teachers and non-teaching school personnel, selected by the MSA administration in each school building that have received crisis intervention training and are responsible for becoming actively involved with resolving crises. The MSA administrator or designee shall serve as the leader of the crisis team.
- E. The phrase "remove the student from school grounds" is the act of securing the person of a student with an IEP and escorting that student from the school building or school activity at which the student with an IEP is located.
- F. "Emergency" means a situation in which immediate intervention is necessary to protect a student or other individual from physical injury, emotional abuse due to verbal and nonverbal gestures, or to prevent severe property damage.
- G. All other terms and phrases used in this policy shall be defined in accordance with applicable state and federal law or ordinary and customary usage.

#### **IV. REMOVAL OF STUDENTS WITH IEPs FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS**

##### **A. Removal By Crisis Team**

If the behavior of a student with an IEP escalates to the point where the student's behavior endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, the school building's crisis team may be summoned. The crisis team may attempt to de-escalate the student's behavior by means including, but not limited to, those described in the student's IEP and/or behavior intervention plan. When such measures fail, or when the crisis team determines that the student's behavior continues to endanger or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, the crisis team may remove the student from school grounds.

If the student's behavior cannot be safely managed, school personnel may immediately request assistance from the police liaison officer or a peace officer.

##### **B. Removal By Police Liaison Officer or Peace Officer**

If a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, the MSA administrator in charge may request that the police liaison officer or a peace officer remove the student from school grounds. To the fullest extent possible, the police liaison officer/peace officer should be informed to bring their own ASL-English interpreter if they are responding to a situation involving a deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deafblind student, especially if the situation may involve further criminal charges.

Whether or not a student with an IEP engages in conduct which endangers or may endanger the health, safety, or property of the student, other students, staff members, or school property, MSA personnel may report a crime committed by a student with an IEP to appropriate authorities. If MSA reports a crime committed by a student with an IEP, school personnel shall transmit copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student for consideration by appropriate authorities to whom it reports the crime, to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and MSA Policy #515: *Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records*.

The fact that a student with an IEP is covered by special education law does not prevent state law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of federal and state law to crimes committed by a student with an IEP.

C. Reasonable Force Permitted

In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, MSA administrators, other crisis team members, or the police liaison officer or other agents of the Minnesota State Academies, whether or not members of a crisis team, may use reasonable force when it is necessary under the circumstances to correct or restrain a student or prevent bodily harm or death to another.

In removing a student with an IEP from school grounds, police liaison officers and MSA personnel are further prohibited from engaging in the following conduct:

1. Corporal punishment prohibited by Minn. Stat. § 121A.58;
2. Requiring the student to assume and maintain a specified physical position, activity, or posture that induces physical pain as an aversive procedure;
3. Totally or partially restricting a student's senses as punishment (study carrels may be used as an academic intervention if identified in the student's IEP);
4. Denying or restricting a child's access to equipment and devices such as walkers, canes, wheel chairs, hearing aids, and communication boards that facilitate the child's functioning except when temporarily removing the equipment or device is needed to prevent injury to the child or others or serious damage to the equipment or device, in which case the equipment or device shall be returned to the child as soon as possible;
5. Interacting with a child in a manner that constitutes sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse under Minn. Stat. § 626.556;
6. Physical holding (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 125A.0941) that restricts or impairs a child's ability to breathe, restricts or impairs a child's ability to communicate distress, places pressure or weight on a child's head, throat,

neck, chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, or abdomen, or results in straddling a child's torso;

7. Presenting intense sounds, lights, faradic skin shocks, or other sensory stimuli (such as noxious smell, taste, substance, or sprays) as an aversive stimulus;
8. Withholding regularly scheduled meals or water; and/or
9. Denying a student access to toilet facilities.

D. Parental Notification and Reporting

The MSA administrator or designee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent or guardian of the student's removal from school grounds as soon as possible following the removal. Consistent with MSA Policy# 543, all appropriate incident/restraint reports must be completed.

E. Continued Removals; Review of IEP

Continued and repeated use of the removal process described herein must be reviewed in the development of the individual student's IEP, including frequent review/revisions of the student's Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

F. Effect of Policy in an Emergency; Use of Restrictive Procedures

A student with an IEP may be removed in accordance with this policy regardless of whether the student's conduct would create an emergency.

If MSA seeks to remove a student with an IEP from school grounds under this policy due to behaviors that constitute an emergency and the student's IEP/BIP authorizes the use of one or more restrictive procedures, the crisis team may employ those restrictive procedures, in addition to any reasonable force that may be necessary, to facilitate the student's removal from school grounds, as long as the crisis team members who are implementing the restrictive procedures have received the training required by Minn. Stat § 125A.0942, Subd. 5, and otherwise comply with the requirements of § 125A.0942. Any restrictive procedures must also comply with MSA Policy #543 – Crisis Prevention Intervention. If the crisis team initiates use of restrictive procedures in an emergency, the student's IEP team shall meet as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) school days after emergency procedures have commenced to review the incident and recommend changes, if any, to the student's IEP/BIP.

G. Reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Annually, stakeholders may recommend, as necessary, to the Commissioner of MDE (Commissioner) specific and measurable implementation and outcome goals for reducing the use of restrictive procedures. The Commissioner must submit to the Legislature a report on districts' progress in reducing the use of restrictive procedures that recommends how to further reduce these procedures and eliminate the use of prone restraints.

By June 30 of each year, MSA must report summary data on the use of restrictive procedures to the MDE, in a form and manner determined by the Commissioner. The summary data must include information about the use of restrictive procedures, including the use of reasonable force by school personnel that is consistent with the definition of physical holding or seclusion of a child with a disability. This information must also be shared with the MSA Board within the school's annual report.

**Legal References:**

*Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)*  
*Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 121A.67, Subd. 2 (Aversive and Deprivation Procedures)*  
*Minn. Stat. §§ 125A.094-125A.0942 (Restrictive Procedures for Children with Disabilities)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 609.06 (Authorized Use of Force)*  
*Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Permitted Actions)*  
*20 U.S.C. § 1232g et seq. (Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA))*  
*20 U.S.C. § 1415(k)(6) (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA))*  
*34 C.F.R. § 300.535 (IDEA Regulation Regarding Involvement of Law Enforcement)*

**Cross References:**

*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)*  
*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment)*  
*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)*  
*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)*  
*MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)*  
*MSA Policy 506 (Student Discipline)*  
*MSA Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)*  
*MSA Policy 543 (Crisis Prevention Intervention)*  
*MSA Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)*