



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

ANNUAL RESTRAINT INFORMATION SYSTEM COLLECTION (RISC) REPORT **2024-2025 School Year**



Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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ANNUAL RESTRAINT INFORMATION SYSTEM COLLECTION (RISC) REPORT

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Contents

Introduction 5

Total Number of Incidents of Restraints (by Academic Level)..... 6

Total Number of Unique Student Restraints (by Academic Level) 6

Total Number of Students Restrained (by Disability Category) 7

Location Where Restraints Occurred – Disaggregated..... 8

Types of Restraints Implemented – Disaggregated..... 9

Injuries to Staff/Injuries to Students..... 10

Restraints with Injuries by Location 10

Types of Restraints Resulting in Injuries..... 11

Duration of Time per Restraints 12

Staff Title Breakdown 13

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings After Restraint..... 15

Introduction

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to report the use of restraint with school-aged students in educational programs that have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). LEAs utilize the Restraint Information System Collection (RISC) data collection system to meet this requirement. RISC was developed by PDE, in conjunction with recommendations from the state Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP). Annually, this report is presented to the Secretary of Education.

The Bureau of Special Education (BSE) closely monitors the use of positive behavior support and restraints by Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) across the Commonwealth. LEAs are required to comply with 22 Pa. Code § 14.133 (related to school entities) and 22 Pa. Code § 711.46 (related to charter schools and cyber charter schools). This includes reporting RISC data within 30 days of the restraint. 22 Pa. Code §§ 14.133(c)(5) and 711.46(c)(5). This also includes training of personnel in specific procedures, methods, and techniques of restraint. 22 Pa. Code §§ 14.133(f) and 711.46(f). The training of personnel should provide varied intervention and strategies needed to address problem behaviors. PDE asserts the use of restraints is considered a measure of last resort, only to be used after other less restrictive measures, including de-escalation techniques. PDE utilizes the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) and the 29 Intermediate Units to provide ongoing training to LEAs in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support programs (PBIS) and other research-based practices and techniques to develop and maintain skills that enhance an educator's ability to prevent restraints.

In conjunction with training and technical assistance, BSE also closely monitors LEA compliance with positive behavior support during the Cyclical Monitoring for Continuous Improvement (CMCI) process and conducts ongoing restraint reviews as data reported in the RISC system throughout the school year. When necessary, BSE conducts further investigation with LEAs when the following instances occur: mechanical restraints (handcuff), electric shock intervention (taser), excessive restraints lasting longer than 60 minutes, multiple injuries occurring with student and/or staff, patterns of excessive holds of a specific student, patterns of excessive holds that have not decreased over time, excessive law enforcement interventions, high waiver count without reconvening the student's IEP team, serious injury warranting a BSE investigation, law enforcement intervention without reconvening the student's IEP team, restraint of a student with an IEP who committed an incident listed in section 1303-A(b)(4.1) or (4.2) of the Safe Schools Act (22 Pa. Code § 10.23), and staff not trained in de-escalation and restraint programs.

Total Number of Incidents of Restraints (by Academic Level)

The total number of restraint entries for the 2024-2025 school year was 28,925.

Academic Level	Restraint Count
Kindergarten (1/2 and Full Day)	4,219
Grade 1 through Grade 6	16,945
Grade 7 through Grade 9	4,239
Grade 10 through Grade 12	3,522
Total	28,925

Total Number of Unique Student Restraints (by Academic Level)

The total number of unique student restraints for the 2024-2025 school year was 4,936.

Grade	Unique Student Count	Unique Student Percentage
Kindergarten (1/2 and Full Day)	360	7.29%
Grade 1 through Grade 6	2,824	57.21%
Grade 7 through Grade 9	1,015	20.56%
Grade 10 through Grade 12	737	14.93%
Totals	4,936	100%

Total Number of Students Restrained (by Disability Category)

Of the 4,936 students restrained, the number of restraints by disability category is detailed below.

Disability Type	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Emotional Disturbance	1,822	36.91%
Autism	1,591	32.23%
Other Health Impairment	782	15.84%
Intellectual Disability (MR)	416	8.43%
Specific Learning Disability	217	4.40%
Speech or Language Impairment	46	0.93%
Multiple Disabilities	43	0.87%
Hearing Impairment including Deafness	5	0.10%
Traumatic Brain Injury	8	0.16%
Orthopedic Impairment	4	0.08%
Deaf-Blindness	2	0.04%
Visual Impairment including Blindness	0	0.00%
Total	4,936	100.00%

Location Where Restraints Occurred – Disaggregated

Location of the 28,925 restraints in school-age programs for the 2024-2025 school year:

Program Location	Restraint Count	Percentage of Restraints
School District Program	11727	40.54
Licensed Private Academic School	4318	14.92
APS	4231	14.63
IU program operated outside SD	3658	12.65
Alternative Education Placement out of District	2250	7.78
IU Operated classroom in School Building	884	3.06
IU Operated classroom in a neighboring school district	704	2.43
Charter School	358	1.24
Alternative Education Placement in District	211	0.73
Segregated Program Outside School Building	197	0.68
Private Residential Rehabilitative Institution	118	0.41
Partial Hospitalization Program	102	0.35
Program Provided in Neighboring District	56	0.19
YDC/YFC	50	0.17
Residential Treatment Facility	31	0.11
AEDY (Approved Alt. Ed. for Disruptive Youth)	19	0.07
County Detention Center	9	0.03
CTC (Career Tech. Center)	2	0.01
Total	28,925	100.00

Types of Restraints Implemented – Disaggregated

Of the 28,925 restraints, below are the types of restraints utilized:

Restraint Type	Count	Percentage
Standing restraint	10,304	35.62
Seated on floor restraint	6,054	20.93
Transport	4,402	15.22
Supine restraint	4,272	14.77
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint	1,034	3.57
Chair restraint	747	2.58
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Supine Restraint	676	2.34
(Combination holds) Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	483	1.67
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	273	0.94
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint	238	0.82
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint	149	0.52
Police Intervention	132	0.46
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	76	0.26
(Combination holds) Chair Restraint and Supine Restraint	69	0.24
(Combination holds) Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	16	0.06
Total	28,925	100.00

Injuries to Staff/Injuries to Students

Of the 28,925 restraints during the 2024-2025 school year, 1,623 resulted in an injury.

Injuries to Staff/Students	Count	Percentage
Restraints Where an Injury Occurred	1,623	5.61%
Restraints With an Injury to Student	463	1.60%
Restraints With an Injury to Staff	1,057	3.65%
Restraints With Injuries to Both Student and Staff	103	0.36%

Restraints with Injuries by Location

Of the 1,623 injuries in the 2024-2025 school year, the location of restraint where injuries occurred are listed below:

Program Location	Restraint Count with Injury
School District Program	665
APS	245
Licensed Private Academic School	201
IU program operated outside SD	168
IU Operated classroom in School Building	116
Alternative Education Placement out of District	103
IU Operated classroom in a neighboring school district	55
Charter School	33
Segregated Program Outside School Building	13
Alternative Education Placement in District	8
Partial Hospitalization Program	6
YDC/YFC	4
County Detention Center	3
Private Residential Rehabilitative Institution	1
Program Provided in Neighboring District	1
AEDY (Approved Alt. Ed. for Disruptive Youth)	1
Total	1623

Types of Restraints Resulting in Injuries

Of the 1,623 injuries to students and staff, the types of restraints utilized are outlined below:

Type of Restraint	Restraint Count	Injury To Student Only	Injury To Staff Only	Injury to Both
Seated on floor restraint	361	58	281	22
Standing restraint	360	124	222	14
Supine restraint	235	68	143	24
Transport	209	60	138	11
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint	122	34	80	8
Chair restraint	79	21	49	9
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Supine Restraint	72	46	25	1
(Combination holds) Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	47	14	31	2
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint	35	8	25	2
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	28	9	18	1
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint	24	5	15	4
Police Intervention	21	8	8	5
(Combination holds) Chair Restraint and Supine Restraint	16	6	10	0
(Combination holds) Standing Restraint and Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine	10	2	8	0
(Combination holds) Chair Restraint and Seated on Floor Restraint and Supine Restraint	4	0	4	0
Total	1,623	463	1,057	103

Duration of Time per Restraints

The 28,925 restraints that occurred in the 2024-2025 school year ranged from under one minute to over 30 minutes. The chart below details the length of time of the restraint in minute increments.

Restraint Length	Count	Percentage
0:01 - 1:00	8591	29.70%
1:01 - 2:00	5521	19.09%
2:01 - 3:00	2386	8.25%
3:01 - 4:00	1634	5.65%
4:01 - 5:00	1713	5.92%
5:01 - 10:00	4299	14.86%
10:01 - 20:00	3054	10.56%
20:01 - 30:00	1405	4.86%
30:01 and up	322	1.11%
Total	28,925	100.00%

Staff Title Breakdown

LEAs identify the staff involved in the restraint through the RISC process. Additionally, the report requires information as to whether the staff were trained in a restraint system. Below is a compilation of staff involved and the number of staff that have been trained.

Note: There are duplicate staff reported in the Staff Title Breakdown Report as some reported restraints have multiple staff assisting in the process.

Staff Type	Total Count	Count Where Staff Member is Trained	% Trained
Special Education Teacher	15137	15106	99.80%
Classroom Asst.	8170	8164	99.93%
Behavior Asst.	7771	7765	99.92%
Behavior Counselor/Specialist	7667	7660	99.91%
Paraprofessional	6888	6860	99.59%
BCBA	2487	2487	100.00%
Behavior Therapist	2231	2229	99.91%
Personal Care Aide	1928	1912	99.17%
Behavior Mentor	1812	1812	100.00%
Administrator	1604	1598	99.63%
MH employee	1593	1593	100.00%
Support Aide	1425	1422	99.79%
Community Integration Specialist	1200	1200	100.00%
Principal	1112	1093	98.29%
Crisis Staff	1092	1089	99.73%
Counselor	922	916	99.35%
Director	847	847	100.00%
Instructional Assistant	836	835	99.88%
Special Education Aide	829	820	98.91%
Special Education Supervisor	828	826	99.76%
Regular Education Teacher	819	793	96.83%
Principal/Assistant	504	500	99.21%
Program Coordinator	440	440	100.00%
PBI Staff	430	430	100.00%
Social Worker	417	415	99.52%

ANNUAL RESTRAINT INFORMATION SYSTEM COLLECTION (RISC) REPORT

Staff Title Breakdown, continued

Staff Type	Total Count	Count Where Staff Member is Trained	% Trained
Coordinator	407	405	99.51%
One to One	404	398	98.51%
School Security	399	380	95.24%
OT	392	390	99.49%
Dean of Students	389	385	98.97%
Speech Therapist	366	365	99.73%
Therapist	360	357	99.17%
Clinical Director	336	336	100.00%
Specialist	327	325	99.39%
Case Manager	320	319	99.69%
Substitute Teacher	290	288	99.31%
Nurse	222	221	99.55%
School Resource Officer	204	195	95.59%
Police Officer	164	135	82.32%
Psychologist	158	158	100.00%
Team Coordinator	157	157	100.00%
RTF Direct Service Staff	123	123	100.00%
Gym Teacher	93	91	97.85%
Student Teacher	80	78	97.50%
School Secretary	68	66	97.06%
YDC Counselor Aide	47	47	100.00%
CPI Instructor	31	31	100.00%
Treatment Manager	28	28	100.00%
Job Coach	28	28	100.00%
Hall Monitors	24	21	87.50%
Mobile Therapist	17	17	100.00%
TSS	14	14	100.00%
Bus Driver	9	6	66.67%
Parent	4	3	75.00%
Custodian	2	1	50.00%
Cafeteria Worker	1	1	100.00%

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings After Restraint

IEP Meetings Held, Waived, or Left in Process

Of the 28,925 restraints, the number of waivers and IEP meetings are shown in the chart below:

IEP Information for Restraints	Count	% of All Restraints
Total Restraint Count	28925	N/A
Restraints with ONLY an IEP Meeting Date	11059	38.23%
Restraints with ONLY a Waiver Date	17045	58.93%
Restraints with BOTH a Waiver Date and IEP Mtg Date	514	1.78%
Restraints with "FBA" Checked	979	3.38%
Restraints with "Initial Evaluation" Checked	39	0.13%
Restraints with "Reevaluation" Checked	390	1.35%
Restraints with "NBSP" Checked	425	1.47%
Restraints with "RBSP" Checked	3326	11.50%
Restraints with "Change of Placement" Checked	913	3.16%
Restraints with "IEP was reconvened – Related services and / or SDI were modified" checked	2,258	7.81%
Restraints with "IEP was reconvened, NO current changes at this time" Checked	11,863	41.01%
Restraints with none of the previous 8 checked	10,725	37.08%
Restraints with Law Enforcement Checked	262	0.91%



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