

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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PENN*LINK

To: School District Superintendents
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Chartered Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Executive Directors
Private Residential Rehabilitative Institution Executive Directors

From: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director
Bureau of Special Education

Subject: 2018-19 School Year Restraint Information System Collection Tracking and Training

The 2018-19 school year Restraint Information System Collection (RISC) is open for data entry. The system was enhanced to give local educational agencies (LEAs) greater opportunity to provide both more detail about restraints and to analyze trends in reducing the use of physical restraints on students.

The Bureau of Special Education (BSE) continues to require LEAs to report the restraints that occurred in each quarter. This reporting process encourages LEAs to report their restraints in a more timely manner, which in turn, will help LEAs monitor patterns of episodic behaviors and address them accordingly. The quarterly windows of reporting for the 2018-19 school year are:

Quarter	Begin Date	End Date	Last day to Report	Zero Window Opens	Zero Window Closes
1	07/01/2018	09/30/2018	10/20/2018	10/01/2018	10/20/2018
2	10/01/2018	12/31/2018	01/15/2019	01/01/2019	01/15/2019
3	01/01/2019	03/31/2019	04/15/2019	04/01/2019	04/15/2019
4	04/01/2019	06/30/2019	07/14/2019	07/01/2019	07/15/2019

The RISC reporting design provides an “End Date” for LEAs to comply with their end of quarterly reporting. In addition, there is a two-week window date labeled “Last Day to Report”. This allows LEAs to gather and report their students who attend an out-of-district facility and were placed in a restraint during that quarter. This two-week period is also a designated time for the LEAs with no restraints during the quarter to report zero in the RISC. BSE will send reminder PENN*LINKS ahead of each quarterly reporting window.

BSE continues to monitor the restraint information entered by LEAs. The RISC requires a LEA to report the incident, the unsafe behavior, and the de-escalation techniques utilized. The parent(s) must be notified by the LEA of the use of a restraint and schedule an Individualized Education

Program (IEP) meeting within 10 school days of the use of the restraint in the educational program, or after written notice the parent agrees in writing to waive the IEP meeting. Additionally, restraints occurring during the Extended School Year sessions should be reported within three weeks of the start of the school year.

In reviewing restraints submitted in the RISC, the Special Education Advisers of the BSE will continue to focus on LEA monitoring responsibilities as well as:

- Training of staff in de-escalation techniques;
- Excessive time of restraint;
- Excessive use of parent waivers;
- Mechanical restraints;
- Injuries;
- Number of restraints; and
- 10 day window (school days) to convene an IEP after a restraint occurs.

A RISC Report Training Go-To Webinar is posted on the RISC site at <https://apps.leaderservices.com/risc/index.aspx>. The RISC reporting Go-To Webinar Link is located below the Login box of the Leader Services RISC sign-in page. This webinar explains the reporting process and how to use the RISC. The webinar also shares how to update your LEA's contact information. All parties involved with the RISC are highly encouraged to view this webinar to learn how to report restraints, how to use of the system, and to understand the regulatory responsibility for the LEAs.

Additionally, BSE's "Guidelines for De-escalation and the Use of/and Reporting of Restraints in Education Entities" document is available for review.

Questions regarding the RISC should be directed to either of the following Special Education Advisers: Keith Focht at 717.783.6921 or kfocht@pa.gov or Pat Haglund at 814.662.2662 or phaglund@pa.gov.

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