

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON YOUTH**

**Study of Seclusion and
Restraint in Schools:
Recommendations**

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 21

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2014**

Legislative Study

Seclusion and Restraint in Schools

Study Author

Virginia Commission on Youth

Enabling Authority

§ 30-174 and § 30-175 and House Bill 1106 (Hope, 2014)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2014 General Assembly Session, Delegate Patrick Hope introduced House Bill 1106, directing the Commission on Youth, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, to review: statewide policies and regulations related to seclusion and restraint in public and private elementary and secondary schools; and methods used in other states to reduce and eliminate the use of seclusion and restraint in public and private elementary and secondary schools.

On May 7, 2014, the Commission on Youth adopted a study plan for the *Study of Seclusion and Restraint in Schools* and on November 17, 2014 adopted the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Request that the Governor finalize Virginia's Proposed Regulations Governing the Operation of Private Day Schools for Students with Disabilities.

Recommendation 2

Introduce legislation requiring the Board of Education to promulgate regulations on the use of seclusion and restraint in Virginia's public schools. These regulations will incorporate the 2009 Department of Education Guidelines and the U.S. DOE 15 Principles on Seclusion & Restraint and address definitions, criteria for use, restrictions for use, training, notification requirements, reporting, and follow-up. The regulations will also address the diverse population of students in the public school setting including students in the general education and special education populations and distinctions between primary and secondary schools including the students' emotional and physical developmental differences.

Recommendation 3

Support the Department of Criminal Justice Services efforts in training appropriate parties, including School Resource Officers and School Security Officers, in student development, de-escalation, and conflict mediation in the school setting.

Recommendation 4

Request the Department of Education support local school divisions by providing resources and training on research-based appropriate behavioral management, prevention, de-escalation techniques to reduce the use of seclusion and restraint.

