



Tom Grady, *Chair*
Ben Gibson, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
Grazie Pozo Christie
Ryan Petty
Joe York

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jacob Oliva
DATE: October 28, 2022

Contact Information:

Bureau of Exceptional Education
and Student Services

BESESupport@fldoe.org

850-245-0475

DPS: 2022-167

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the Reporting of Restraint and Seclusion Data and the Use of the Involuntary Examination, Restraint and Seclusion (IERS) Web Application

[Section \(s.\) 1003.375, Florida Statutes \(F.S\)](#), establishes documentation, reporting and monitoring requirements for the use of restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities. It states, “The department shall maintain aggregate data of incidents of manual or physical restraining and seclusion and disaggregate the data for analysis by county, school, student exceptionality, and other variables, including the type and method of restraint or seclusion used. This information shall be updated monthly.” Additionally, school districts must report incidents of restraint and seclusion in the U.S. Department of Education’s [Civil Rights Data Collection \(CRDC\) online tool](#).

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has historically collected incidents of restraint and seclusion through the Student Information System (SIS) for all students (both with and without disabilities) and the [IERS web application](#) for only students with disabilities. FDOE has used the data collected via the SIS to fulfill the federal requirements of reporting to the CRDC online tool on behalf of the school districts.

On June 18, 2019, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a [review](#) of the restraint and seclusion incidents reported to the CRDC online tool. The GAO found indication that a majority of school districts in the nation were underreporting incidents of restraint and seclusion, including school districts in the State of Florida.

As a result of the GAO report, FDOE’s Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) initiated a reconciliation process between the two systems. Further reviews conducted by the Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) in February 2020 and the FDOE Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in June 2020 concluded that the reporting of these data for the purpose of reporting to the CRDC should be done solely through the IERS web application. Please note that beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the

JACOB OLIVA
SENIOR CHANCELLOR

Information Regarding the Reporting of Restraint and Seclusion Data and the Use of the
Involuntary Examination, Restraint and Seclusion (IERS) Web Application

October 28, 2022

Page Two

Discipline/Resultant Action Code data element will no longer include codes L-Seclusion, M-Mechanical Restraint, or R-Physical Restraint.

School district staff should review web application access needs to ensure that the appropriate personnel are reporting these data accurately and in a timely manner. If you have any questions or require additional training on the user functionality of the IERS web application, please contact the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services staff at 850-245-0475 or BESESupport@fldoe.org.

JO/af/km

cc: School District Student Support Services Directors
School District Exceptional Student Education Directors
School District MIS Contacts