



Who is the Student Care Department at ISBE?

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Who is the Student Care Department?

The Illinois State Board of Education has a newly created Student Care Department. The department is focused on ensuring that the collective and individual needs of students are met and that districts are responsive to the needs of children and families.

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Who is the Student Care Department?

- Molly Uhe-Edmonds, Director
- Kim Barnes-Cummins, Supervisor
- 3 General Education Principal Consultants
- 3 Special Education Principal Consultants
- Legal Team
 - 2 dedicated ISBE General Counsel lawyers
- 7 Consultants
- Program Specialist



What the Student Care Dept. Oversees

- Restraint, timeout, isolated time out (RTO)
- School discipline
- Student Voices
 - Student contests
- Bullying prevention
- Supporting transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students



Restraint

- When we are speaking about restraint
 - Student is physically restrained following a behavioral incident that presents a danger to self, other students, or staff
 - Staff are trained to restrain in a manner that is safe for everyone involved and deescalates the situation
- Restraint, timeout, and isolated timeout regulations apply to **ALL** students.
- These regulations also applies to residentially placed students that districts remain responsible for.



Timeout & Isolate Time Out

- Timeout is a behavior management techniques for the purpose of calming or de-escalation that involves the involuntary monitored separation of a student from classmates with an adult trained for part of the school day, only for a brief time, in a non-locked setting [23 IAC 1.285(a)(2)].
- Isolated time out means the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a time out room or other enclosure outside the classroom without a supervising adult in the time out room or enclosure. Isolated time out is allowed only under limited circumstances. If all other requirements under Section 1.285 are met, isolated time out may only be used when the adult in the time out room or enclosure is in imminent danger of serious physical harm because the student is unable to cease actively engaging in extreme physical aggression [23 IAC 1.285(a)(1)].



What a Timeout is NOT

- ‘Isolated time out’ or ‘time out’ does not include a student-initiated or student requested break, a student-initiated or teacher-initiated sensory break, including a sensory room containing sensory tools to assist a student to calm and deescalate, an in-school suspension or detention, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure, including a student's brief removal to the hallway or similar environment” [23 IAC 1.285(a)(3)].



Documentation Procedures & timeline

- Per 23 IAC 1.285(f)(1), a written record of each event involving a time out or physical restraint must be maintained in the student's temporary record. Public school districts, private special education schools, special education cooperatives, charter schools, regional safe school programs, and any other education program serving Illinois public school students must complete the form in its entirety.
 - The designated school official shall be notified of the incident as soon as possible, but **no later than the end of the school day on which it occurred.**
 - Written parent notification must occur within **24 hours** of the incident.
 - Within **2 business days**, serving entities must enter the data into ISBE's Student Information System(SIS).



School Discipline

- Monitoring top 20% of school districts that use exclusionary discipline practices
- Cross-department collaboration with the ISBE Special Education department regarding suspension/expulsion rates of students with disabilities
- Working to establish clear and consistent discipline data collection procedures for districts



Bullying Prevention & Resources

- Bi-annual school district bullying policy update submission and IWAS system
- Providing technical assistance to districts and parents/guardians when a student has experienced instance(s) of bullying
- Online resources to support districts and families to end bullying



Student Voices

- *Resources for Students by Students*
- Each year a group of students are chosen from around the state to be student advisors to the State Board of Education. This group of students has the opportunity to see the State Board's policymakers in action and work with them to provide student perspectives and concerns on the state's education policies. Students come together throughout the year and work on a research project that is presented to the Board.
- Applications are available in the spring and students are chosen over the summer with their work beginning in September and culminating with a presentation to the Board in March.



Supporting transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming students

- Providing information to district about the Inclusive Curriculum Bill
- Non-regulatory guidance to provide a description of the legal rights of transgender, nonbinary and gender nonconforming students
- Support district best practices and provide technical assistance
- Provide resources for educators on how to establish an inclusive classroom for all students



Thank you!

Illinois State Board of Education

Student Care Department

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