

Restraint and Seclusion, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) in Ohio Schools.

What Parents Need to Know

#EachChildOurFuture



Does This Law Apply to all Students?

This law applies to all K-12 students, both general education students and students with disabilities, and requires using proven practices to reduce and eliminate restraint and seclusion practices.

As of September 2021, Ohio [law](#) requires school districts to provide yearly notice to parents about their procedures related to the requirements of positive behavior intervention and supports (PBIS) and the emergency use of physical restraint and seclusion, including the local complaint process. Part of this law requires that parents in Ohio's public schools must be given the following information at least one time per year.

- Implement PBIS in all (K-12) schools across the district.
- Provide student personnel with professional development about PBIS.
- Deliver specific training on ways to prevent the use of restraint and seclusion and safe restraint and seclusion practices when needed for emergencies.

What is the purpose of this law?

The purpose of this law is for Ohio school districts to provide behavior supports and training to reduce and eliminate the need for emergency physical restraint and seclusion. The law requires that Ohio school districts:



Ohio | Department of Education

This Document was developed by The Ohio Department of Education Office for Exceptional Children in collaboration with the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Positive

Teaching students the behaviors the school wishes to see (school-wide behavior expectations) and the skills needed to demonstrate the behavior expectations

Behavior

Acknowledging and reinforcing expected behaviors

Intervention

Creating a safe and supportive environment that guides positive behavior choices

Supports

Developing organized levels (tiers) of interventions and supports to provide the behavior assistance each child needs to be successful

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What is PBIS and how does it apply to my child?

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a process schools use to create a consistent approach for teaching and supporting positive behavior. PBIS is designed for all students and is applied in all areas of the school including the classroom, hallway, lunchroom, restroom and recreation spaces. PBIS helps to prevent or reduce challenging and unsafe behaviors that can lead to the emergency use of restraint and seclusion. The PBIS framework includes the above practices.

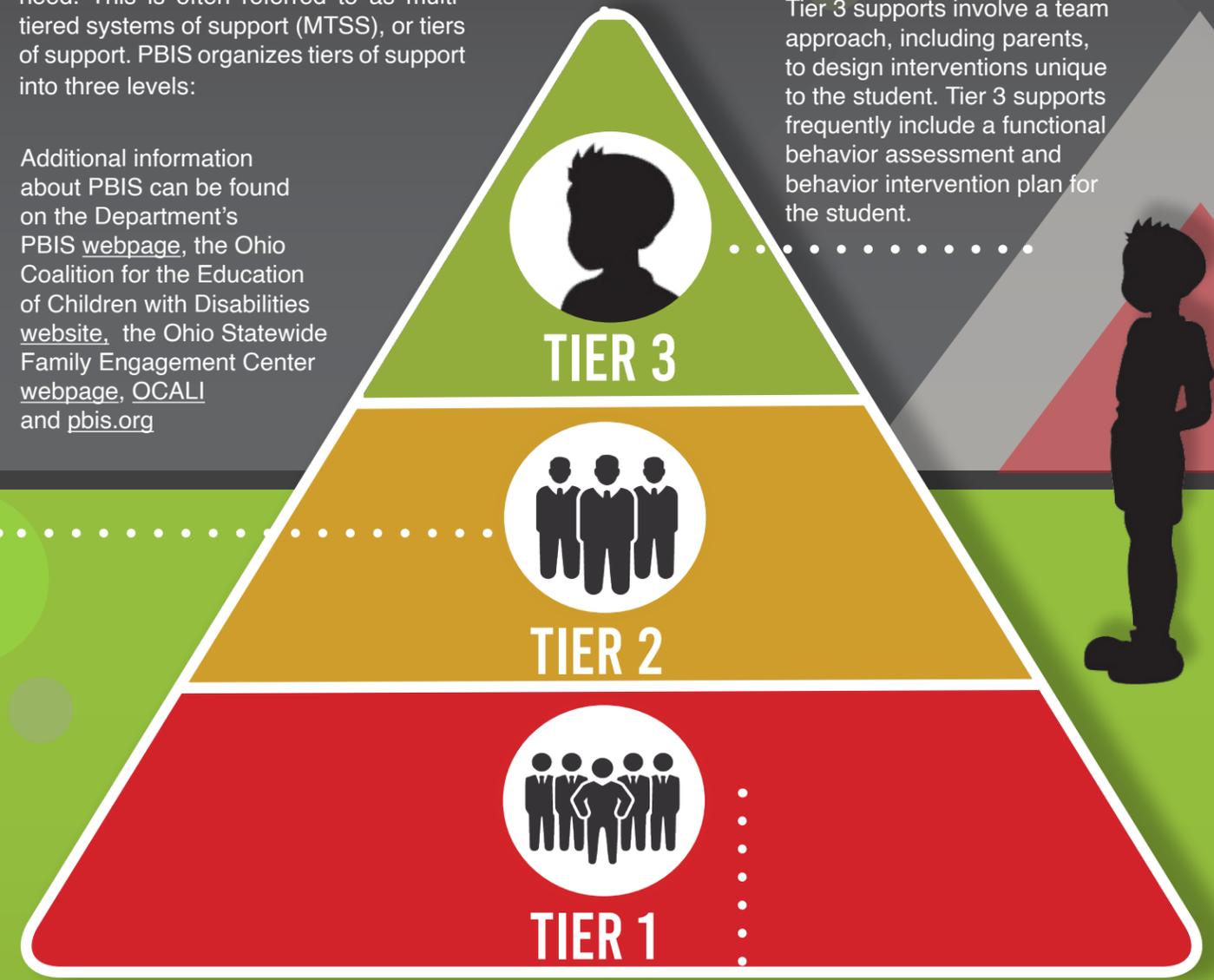
Do you suspect your child has a disability?



Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

A key practice of PBIS is offering tiers of support to match each child's level of need. This is often referred to as multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), or tiers of support. PBIS organizes tiers of support into three levels:

Additional information about PBIS can be found on the Department's PBIS [webpage](#), the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities [website](#), the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center [webpage](#), [OCALI](#) and [pbis.org](#)



Individualized Supports

A few students are provided individualized supports based on their specific needs, in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports. Tier 3 supports involve a team approach, including parents, to design interventions unique to the student. Tier 3 supports frequently include a functional behavior assessment and behavior intervention plan for the student.

Targeted Supports

Some students are provided more instruction and opportunities for practicing behavior skills in addition to Tier 1 supports. Schools often provide Tier 2 supports to groups of students with similar needs.

Universal Supports

All students are taught the school-wide behavior expectations and the skills associated with the behavior expectations.

Physical Restraint

Restraint is the use of direct physical contact to prevent or restrict a student's movements.

- Staff must ensure the student's breathing is not restricted.
- Staff may not hold the student face down (in the prone position).

Seclusion

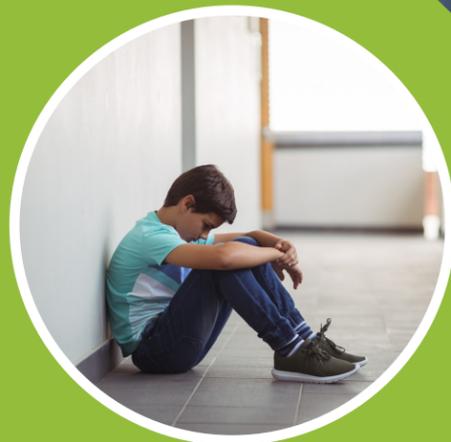
Seclusion is confining (or keeping) a student in a room or space to ensure safety of the child and others while being observed by an adult.

- There must be continuous observation by school staff.
- The room or area must not be locked.
- The space must provide adequate space, lighting, ventilation, and protect the safety and dignity of the student.



Physical restraint or seclusion can only be used in emergency situations

when other interventions have failed and there is great risk to the safety and well-being of the student or others. It cannot be used for staff convenience, as a form of discipline or punishment or as a substitute for something less limiting or restrictive. The use of physical restraint or seclusion may never be used for preschool students.



Prohibited Practices

- Mechanical or chemical restraint
- Face down (Prone) restraints
- Corporal Punishment
- Depriving the child of basic needs and anything that is considered child abuse
- Anything that restricts breathing
- Any intentional use of substances, activities, or items that cause physical pain or extreme discomfort



Information about physical restraint and seclusion:

If my child is physically restrained or secluded, how will I be informed?

If your child is physically restrained or secluded, the school will do the following:

- The school will call or electronically notify you immediately following the incident.
- The school will send to you a written report within 24 hours of the incident.

