



STUDENT SAFETY POLICY

Impact Academy is a private company that contracts with local school districts to provide special education services on their behalf. It is committed to providing a safe academic environment for all of its students and staff, as well as visiting members of the outside community, including, but not limited to, student family members, school district representatives, and assigned mental health workers during all program hours of operation.

Due to the nature of students placed at **Impact Academy**, there are times when a student may become unsafe, presenting a risk of escape or harm to him/herself and/or others. In order to maintain a safe environment at all times, **Impact Academy** personnel are specially trained to intervene with students during such critical circumstances. Most crisis interventions are verbal de-escalation techniques aimed at helping a student remain calm and in control of his or her own body; however, there are times when students resist verbal de-escalation attempts, and become physically violent towards self and/or others. In these instances, the facilitation of **Physical Restraint Techniques** are employed in order to preserve the highest level of protection necessary to maintain a safe atmosphere. **Ohio Revised Code 3319.41** states

"Persons employed or engaged as teachers, principals or administrators in a school, whether public or private, and noncertified school employees and school bus drivers may, within the scope of their employment, use and apply such amount of force and restraint as is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others; to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of the pupil for the purpose of self-defense or for the protections of persons or property."

All **Impact Academy** staff members are regularly trained in exercising verbal de-escalation strategies; these methods are highly effectual in decreasing physically threatening situations, and are enacted to lower the probability of such circumstances occurring again. All personnel are also annually certified in physical restraint techniques, which are only used to prevent a student from being physically unsafe when he/she is presenting a risk of escape or harm towards self or others, and in accordance with Ohio Governor Ted Strickland's **Executive Order 2009-135**, effective August 3, 2009. Use of physical restraint techniques are considered to be a last resort strategy, when all other de-escalation attempts, verbal and otherwise, have been fully exhausted by **Impact Academy** staff. In addition, they are only implemented to place a student in a safe physical position, where he or she can safely recuperate from the unsafe condition with no further threat(s) of violence. They are not used to compensate for lack of sufficient staff or adequate programming, as a substitute for treatment(s), as a means of punishment or discipline, or as a matter of convenience, coercion or control, forced compliance, or retaliation.

I have read the above Student Safety Policy and authorize the implementation of the Student Safety Policy by **Impact Academy** staff members, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3319.41.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Impact Academy Representative

Date