



For Immediate Release

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Applauds Assembly Passage of Seclusion and Restraint bill

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) thanks the State Assembly for passing AB 585/SB 527 which makes important and necessary changes to Wisconsin's seclusion and restraint law.

Over the past three years, 20,000 incidents of seclusion and restraint occurred in Wisconsin schools. 80% of students involved in these incidents are students with disabilities. Annual reporting has lacked uniformity which makes it difficult for families to understand what is happening in their District.

"This bill makes important common-sense changes to Wisconsin's existing law that ensure parents are notified quickly when seclusion and restraint is used, prohibits dangerous practices that can injure or even kill students, re-orient training to emphasize using de-escalation techniques first, and improves reporting requirements when incidents of seclusion and restraint occur," said Beth Swedeen, BPDD Executive Director.

The new law will provide greater transparency for parents to know when seclusion and restraint has been used on their child, clarity for districts on what must be reported, and better statewide data on use of these practices. The Board looks forward to the Governor's signature on this bill and a quick implementation by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the next school year.

BPDD is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities More about BPDD https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Legislative_Overview_BPDD.pdf.