



## BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS

### *Limitations on the Use of Emergency Interventions*

Emergency interventions may not be used in lieu of an appropriate Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) that is designed to change, replace, modify, or eliminate a targeted behavior. In fact, emergency interventions may only be "used to control unpredictable, spontaneous behavior that poses clear and present danger of serious physical harm" to the student with a disability or others and that "cannot be immediately prevented" by a lesser restrictive response. Emergency interventions should be used as a last resort when the student is a danger to self or others and after all other preventative and reactive strategies in the student's BIP have been exhausted.

### *Approved Behavioral Emergency Interventions*

The law continues to prohibit the use of both restraint and seclusion (except by agencies licensed and authorized to use such interventions). In addition, it prohibits the use of interventions that are designed or are likely to cause pain (such as electroshock) or that subject students to verbal abuse, humiliation or ridicule; that deprive students of any of their senses or of sleep, food, water or shelter or proper supervision; or that involve the use of noxious sprays or substances.

The following behavioral emergency interventions, included in "CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention" training, are approved by the EDCOE SELPA for use by CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) trained staff only. The CPI "Crisis Development Model" should be used to help prevent a student from escalating their behavior to the point of being a danger to self or others. The following guidelines should be used when implementing any and all behavioral emergency interventions:

- The following approved cpi "personal safety techniques" may only be used as a last resort, when the student is a danger to self or others:
  - cpi kick block
  - cpi one-hand wrist grab release
  - cpi two-hand wrist grab release
  - cpi one-hand hair pull release
  - cpi two-hand hair pull release
  - cpi front choke release
  - cpi back choke release
  - cpi bite release
  - cpi children's control pose (used only with children smaller than the adult performing the safety technique)
  - cpi team control position (utilizing at least two trained cpi team members)
  - cpi transport position (utilizing at least two trained cpi team members)
  - cpi interim control position (utilizing at least two trained cpi team members)
- Prone restraints (laying face down) of any type are not approved by SELPA, and are not a part of CPI training. Force shall never exceed what is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances, and the duration of the intervention shall not be longer than is necessary to



contain the dangerous behavior.

- Behavioral emergency interventions may not include:
  - Any intervention that is designed to, or likely to cause physical pain, including, but not limited to, electric shock.
  - An intervention that involves the release of noxious, toxic, or otherwise unpleasant sprays, mists, or substances in proximity to the face of the individual.
  - An intervention that denies adequate sleep, food, water, shelter, bedding, physical comfort, or access to bathroom facilities.
  - An intervention that is designed to subject, used to subject, or likely to subject, the individual to verbal abuse, ridicule, or humiliation, or that can be expected to cause excessive emotional trauma.
  - Restrictive interventions that employ a device, material, or objects that simultaneously immobilize all four extremities, including the procedure known as prone containment, except that prone containment or similar techniques may be used by trained personnel as a limited emergency intervention.
  - Locked seclusion, unless it is in a facility otherwise licensed or permitted by state law to use a locked room.
  - An intervention that precludes adequate supervision of the individual.
  - An intervention that deprives the individual of one or more of his or her senses.

### *Behavior Emergency Report*

Parents/guardians shall be notified within one school day whenever a behavioral emergency intervention is used that is defined above under the “Approved Behavioral Emergency Interventions” section. The LEA/district also immediately complete [Behavioral Emergency Report \(BER\) Form \(form located on CDE’s website\)](#) documenting the details of the incident and whether or not the student has a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP). The BER must be submitted to a designated, responsible administrator (within the LEA/district) and placed in the student’s file. A copy of the completed BER should also be sent to the SELPA.

### *Obligation to Schedule and Convene an IEP Meeting When Emergency Interventions are Used*

Anytime a Behavioral Emergency Report (BER) is written regarding a student who does not have a BIP, the designated responsible administrator shall:

- Within two days, the administrator must schedule an IEP team meeting to review the BER.
- The IEP team shall decide if a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and/or Interim BIP is needed.
- The IEP team must document its reasons if it decides not to perform the FBA or develop an Interim BIP.

Anytime a BER is written regarding a student who has a BIP, any incident involving a previously unseen, serious behavior problem or where a previously designed intervention is not effective, should be referred to the IEP team to review and determine if the incident constitutes a need to modify the BIP.



### *CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certification & Training Guidelines*

- EDCOE SELPA offers training to staff members to become CPI certified. The initial training is a one-day course taught by CPI certified instructors. Staff members who attend will be taught how to deescalate student behaviors by using the “CPI Crisis Development Model” and how to implement the “Safety Techniques” that are approved by CPI.
- In order to remain certified, LEA/district staff members who have taken the initial training must take the half-day “CPI Refresher” course annually.
- LEA/Districts are encouraged to review the “Risks of Restraint” (see CPI Training Manual) and practice the CPI Safety Techniques on a weekly basis to ensure that their staff will continue to provide the safest interventions possible.
- Should a staff member become injured in the course of implementing a Safety Technique, they should refer to their LEA’s/district’s policy on reporting injuries.
- Staff members who attain the CPI certification need to notify their LEA/district if they become unable to perform a CPI Safety Technique.
- Only staff members who have current CPI certification should be engaging in “Approved Behavioral Emergency Interventions.”
- An LEA/district shall assume responsibility for tracking staff who are trained and need to update their training.