

The Center School Crisis Prevention Intervention Policy

In January 2018, Public Law 2017, Chapter 291 was signed into law, establishing certain requirements for the use of restraint and seclusion with students with disabilities in school districts, educational services commissions (ESCs), and approved private schools for students with disabilities (APSSDs). Section 18A:46-13.5 - Use of physical restraint on students with disabilities.

The Center School staff place the safety of all students at the top of their daily priorities. Occasionally a student may have an emotionally challenging day which can lead to high-risk behaviors. When these challenges occur, the staff utilize a crisis intervention procedure well established and widely used by many industries: education, health care, human services, behavioral health, and security services.

The Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) was established in 1980 to address the need to manage disruptive and assaultive behavior in a safe, respectful, and non-invasive manner. CPI designed a management system known as Nonviolent Crisis Intervention to meet this need. Nonviolent Crisis Intervention focuses on preventative and team intervention techniques that equip staff to respond appropriately and effectively in crisis situations. Since its establishment, millions of people in diverse fields, including education, healthcare, mental health, and social welfare, have been trained in CPI's Nonviolent Crisis Intervention program. Schools across the nation have successfully implemented Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training to reduce classroom incidents, create behavioral and crisis response plans, and ensure a safe learning environment for teachers and students.

The Center School staff receive annual training in the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) program to ensure that both students and staff remain safe. The training focuses primarily on teaching staff how to verbally deescalate a student who is experiencing medium to high-risk behavioral crisis. Staff are also taught physical intervention procedures, as instructed through CPI, to safely physically stop harmful behaviors. However, these techniques are a last resort and only used when the challenging behavior rises to a point of serious physical danger to the student themselves or others, and all verbal de-escalation techniques have ceased to work. Physical intervention is used ONLY as a last resort and ONLY when other options have been unsuccessful.

As per New Jersey Statute (title 18A:46-13.5) parents/guardians are always notified of any physical interventions employed, well documented reports are written, and staff are annually trained and certified in the CPI program. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi, Executive Director.