



EndSaR
MICHIGAN ADVOCATES
TO END SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT

Dear Members of the Hazel Park Schools Board of Education,

We are concerned about the misuse and overuse of seclusion and restraint in Hazel Park Schools.

In the 2nd quarter of the 2023-24 school year Hazel Park Schools was the school district with the highest reported number of seclusions and restraints in the entire state of Michigan. Hazel Park reported using 272 seclusions and 239 restraints on 40 students with disabilities for a total of 511 incidents in just one quarter. On average, each student was secluded or restrained 12.8 times in the 2nd quarter alone. We noticed that these numbers are 3.5 times higher than the 2nd quarter of 2022–23 when Hazel Park reported a total of 142 total seclusions and restraints.

Seclusion and restraint are outdated interventions that came from a time when much less was understood about the developing brain, the neuroscience of behavior, trauma, and before current, more effective, and safer systems of helping children work through difficult emotions were developed. Using seclusion and restraint is harmful to students' mental health and it makes schools less safe both for students and for educators, especially when these tactics are used repeatedly and when state laws and federal guidance are not followed.

We now have access to [healthier and more effective approaches](#) to meeting the needs of students and staff members in order to prevent crisis situations. [Schools](#) that have implemented trauma-informed, neuroscience aligned, neurodiversity affirming, relationship based, collaborative approaches with fidelity have reported an increase in staff job satisfaction rates, a decrease in both injuries and costs, as well as happier and mentally healthier students and staff.

All educators deserve access to the training and resources required to implement these approaches. The data reported by Hazel Park Schools shows that either staff are not receiving adequate training and support to prevent crisis situations or seclusion and restraint are being used outside of emergency situations as required by Michigan law.

We hereby urgently request that the Hazel Park Board of Education sign the attached resolution to provide meaningful oversight to all schools in your district, including Edison School, to ensure that they are following Michigan Law and Federal Guidance pertaining to the use of seclusion and restraint.

We look forward to working together to make schools a safer place for educators and students.

Sincerely,

The EndSaR Team (Michigan Advocates to End Seclusion and Restraint)

endsarinmichigan@gmail.com

endsar-mi.org