Michigan's Seclusion and Restraint Reform Bill

SB 1223 of 2026



Preserves existing protections and strengthens standards to better protect students and educators.

ELEMENT	CURRENT LAW (2016)	PROTECTIONS STRENGTHENED BY SB 1223
SECLUSION	Defines seclusion as confinement in a room or other space **from which a student is physically prevented from leaving.**	Clarifies that seclusion includes involuntary confinement where a student is not permitted to leave, **or believes or is told they cannot leave.**
SOLITARY SECLUSION	**Not** separately defined or prohibited.	**Defines and prohibits solitary seclusion** in all circumstances, including emergencies.
RESTRAINT	Defines restraint as **an action that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement**.	Provides a **more detailed definition** of physical restraint and **clearer, more stringent limits on its use.**
EMERGENCY THRESHOLD	Permits use in an emergency when a student's behavior poses an **imminent risk** to the safety of the student or of others.	Limits emergency use to situations involving an **imminent risk of serious bodily harm** to the student or another person.
ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION	**Encourages** assessment and intervention when behavior creates a **substantial risk of a future emergency.**	Makes key assessment and interventions **mandatory** after repeated use on an individual student within 60 school days.
DATA REPORTING & AVAILABILITY	Establishes data reporting requirements including publicly available, redacted data **disaggregated by disability status** only.	Expands **publicly available data** to include **race, grade, and gender** in addition to disability status.
TRAINING	Requires a comprehensive **training framework.**	Retains the existing framework, makes certain requirements **mandatory**, and **expands** required content.
STATE GUIDANCE	Provides **guidelines** that reiterate the law, but do not include examples.	Adds **guidance** with **examples of emergency situations** and a **list of less restrictive interventions** to prevent emergencies.
ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT	**No formal oversight** mechanism, **no auditing** of data, no action when districts use seclusion and restraint excessively.	Requires a **reduction plan** for excessive use and gives the Michigan Department of Education **options for further action.**

For more information, visit endsar-mi.org/bill