



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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**State Board of Education Statement on
House Bills 5409-5416**

The Michigan State Board of Education strongly supports House Bills 5409-5416, which codify the Board's 2006 policy limiting the use of restraint and seclusion in schools as a last resort only in emergency situations. The tie-barred bills provide a clear path for implementation, including training of school personnel in positive behavior intervention support. The bills also call for assessment, monitoring, documentation and reporting by trained personnel for those emergency cases.

Research shows that schools implementing comprehensive behavior support systems see increased instructional time, reduced rates of expulsions and suspensions and increased academic achievement, with a resulting reduction in the need for seclusion and restraint. This policy will benefit all students, but it's crucial for special education students who suffer disproportionately higher rates of restraint and seclusion than other students.

After reviewing the proposed legislation, the Board recommends these revisions:

All bills: The specified training is costly but important to the legislation's success. We ask that the Legislature appropriate funding to ensure fidelity in implementation.

HB 5413, Documentation and reporting: We request strong but practical safeguards for due process to ensure reliability and fairness to school staff.

Adopted May 10, 2016

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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