

Substantiated Allegations of Wrongful Restraint in Oregon Schools

(September 1, 2023- September 30, 2024)

Total restraints and seclusions imposed 2023/2024 School Year: 4250

Total number of students restrained during 2023-24 School Year: 1128

Total individuals investigated for Wrongful Restraint 2023/24 School Yr: 73

Total individuals w founded allegation for Wrongful Restraint 2023-24 School Year: 16

Substantiated allegations summaries (organized by grade level and date)

ESD

Willamette Education Service District, February 2024

Three allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded on three school personnel after a student was placed in the “reset room” during which time multiple physical restraints occurred.

Of concern, at one point one school personnel held the student up against a wall, another school personnel pinned the student’s body and head against a corner wall, then utilized his right elbow to place pressure on the student’s neck for approximately three seconds. A third school personnel placed her hand on the back of the student’s head using pressure to push the student’s head down and holding it in that position for several seconds.

Preschool

February 2024, Beaverton Early Childhood Center

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school staff after that staff dragged a student face down on the ground by the arm and leg and then held the student on the ground.

Elementary School

November 2023, Wilson Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded against a school personnel after the school personnel held a student down in his chair by his wrists which caused bruising. Although the school personnel was not CPI trained, she was advised not to perform any physical restraints until completing training and was to request staff assistance. Staff members were available to assist, however this school personnel did not request assistance. Additionally, the school personnel engaged in the physical restraint because the student would not pick up his toys.

November 2023, Kings Valley Charter School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a teacher. The teacher held a student around the torso restricting the student's movement until the student complied with direction. The teacher further directed a second staff to help the teacher pick up and carry the student to a different building.

December 2023, Spring Mountain Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school personnel after the school personnel bear hugged a student, lifting the student off of the floor, then fell to the floor where the student continued struggling to escape. At one point the school personnel was seen covering the student's mouth with her hand because the student was using profanity.

January 2024, Buckman Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school personnel after the school personnel restrained a youth in a prone position while sitting on top of him.

January 2024, Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school personnel. After a minor accident on a school bus a student became upset and slapped the school personnel. The school personnel responded by pushing the student against the wall of the school bus, forcefully holding the student, and spat in the student's face. The student did not pose a risk of imminent and substantial physical or bodily injury, or other less restrictive interventions were not utilized, and the use of a solid object is prohibited.

January 2024, Rogue Primary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school personnel after that school personnel applied a physical restraint (holding the student by the arm and controlling the student's movement) as the student was freely running around in the gymnasium. The student did not pose a risk of imminent and substantial physical or bodily injury, and other less restrictive interventions were not utilized.

January 2024, Jackson Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school staff after that staff grabbed a student by the arm because the student was not listening. The student fell to the ground and the staff member held the student in a prone position while placing her hands on the student's back.

February 2024, Stearns Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school principal after the principal placed a student in a prone position on the ground after the student displayed escalated behaviors such as kicking.

February 2024, Brush College Elementary School

One allegation of Corporal Punishment was founded on a school staff after that staff became frustrated with a student and pushed the student several feet across the classroom and up against a wall with a coat hook protruding out of it causing pain to the student.

February 2024, Lyle Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school staff after that staff forcefully pulled a student out of an office by the arms leaving marks on the student. The student was not posing an imminent risk of harm and the staff failed to follow his training.

February 2024, Lake Labish Elementary School

Two allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded on two school staff. While on the school bus awaiting departure, one of the staff antagonized the student by threatening to place the student in seclusion which caused the student to escalate and slap the staff. The staff reacted by tackling the student on the seat, eventually moving directly outside the bus. At that point a second staff responded, and the student was placed in a supine restraint on the ground.

February 2024, Ft. Vannoy Elementary School

Two allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded on two school staff after those staff restrained a student in the parking lot of the school in a supine position.

February 2024, Edward Byrom Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded against the public education program after several untrained staff placed a student in a prohibited restraint.

March 2024, Oceanlake Elementary School

Two allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded on one school staff. The staff grabbed one student's arm, causing the student's body to spin and hit the floor. This continued for a fifteen-minute period of time and occurred at least ten times. On another occasion the staff grabbed the student's arm and pulled him up and into the classroom as the student's feet drug across the ground. The staff routinely used a "bearhug" to restrict the student's movement and would pull the student from the playground into the classroom.

The same staff placed a second student in a "bear hug" the student sat on a chair and attempted to get up. This occurred on at least three occasions and would continue until the student complied with the staff's directions.

March 2024, Madras Elementary School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a teacher. A teacher placed a student in a "bear hug" and moved the student to the ground on two occasions in the same day. During one of these instances the teacher fell on top of the student and pinned him onto a beanbag chair. The student hit his head on the ground causing a bump. The student had been engaging in property destruction but this behavior did not meet the threshold to engage in a physical restraint.

April 2024, McBride Elementary School

One allegation of wrongful restraint was founded on a school staff after that school staff grabbed the student by the clothing while the student was lying on the floor and drug the student across the classroom placing the student in the quiet room.

Middle School

November 2023, WyEast Middle School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded against a school personnel after the school personnel attempted to keep a student from leaving the office area by grabbing and forcefully holding the student's upper arm leaving bruising on the student. Witnesses had to step in and instruct the school personnel to disengage.

High School

October 2023, Sheridan High School

One allegation of wrongful restraint was founded against a school personnel (who is also the student's PSW) as the school personnel held the student down by the arms and wrists, yelling in the student's face while the student struggled to free himself. The school personnel failed to attend required training on multiple occasions.

October 2023, Sheridan High School

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded against a school personnel (who is also the student's PSW) as the school personnel pinned the student on a table by laying over the student on her torso. The student did not pose a reasonable risk of imminent and substantial physical or bodily injury to self or other. The school personnel failed to attend required training on multiple occasions.

December 2023, McKay High School

Seven allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded against seven different school personnel as the school personnel engaged in multiple prohibited restraints of a student when the student became escalated in her classroom. This led to the student being removed from the classroom and restrained on the ground by seven adults.

Throughout this incident both supine and prone restraints were used. The student would state she could not breathe, staff would dis-engage and then immediately re-engage. The incident moved from the hallway to a stairwell and on to the stairs. When the student was released, she fled the school without her shoes as they had come off during the incident.

All seven staff reported being trained in physical restraints, however failed to follow their training.

February 2024, South Medford High School

Two allegations of Wrongful Restraint were founded on two school staff after those staff applied a physical restraint on a student when it was not warranted. The staff then held the student in both a prone and supine position for several minutes.

Special Schools

Wheatley School, September 2023

One allegation of Wrongful Restraint was founded on a school administrator restricted a student's movements by wrapping her arms around the student's legs, forcefully putting the student's safety vest on and using her body weight to push the student into the car seat. The administrator was visibly frustrated and yelling, her Safety Care training had lapsed and she did not attempt less restrictive interventions prior to physically restricting the student's movements.