

DATE: January 20, 2021

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Data on Frequency of Seclusion and Restraint use
(Response to Request for Information #089)

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

**RESOURCE
STAFF:** Ann Parker, Natalie Prytuluk

REFERENCE: HAH.AR Division Seclusion Rooms and Use of Physical Restraint

ISSUE

Trustee Dunn requested data on the frequency of seclusion and restraint use since the Division implemented the new administrative regulation and training modules.

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2019, Alberta Education released a Ministerial Order for Standards for Seclusion and Physical restraints in Alberta Schools. These standards and guidelines are the basis for our Division's Administrative Regulation HAH.AR Seclusion Rooms and Use of Physical Restraint.

One of the requirements of this regulation is mandatory training and certification in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) for staff working with students presenting with significant emotional/behavioural needs. In addition, three complex behaviour professional learning modules were developed for staff to support positive behaviour interventions and strategies through all tiers of the pyramid of intervention. To date, 1,083 Division staff have been certified or recertified in NVCI, and 2,982 Division staff have attended one or more of the complex behaviour modules. For 2020-2021, the complex behaviour modules have moved to online access, and NVCI instructors are developing an online training process for new staff to roll out in early 2021.

Alberta Education also requires school divisions to track and provide data each month on the use of operational seclusion rooms for each school that continues to have a seclusion room in their building. There are 63 schools that currently have one or more operational seclusion rooms.

Students using a seclusion room would typically have this listed as a strategy on their Individual Behaviour Support Plan (IBSP). The IBSP is reviewed and signed by the student's parents/guardians as part of the student's Individual Program Plan (IPP). Data collection for physical restraint is new this year and processes are still being refined to ensure we are collecting accurate information.

CURRENT SITUATION

The following chart shows data for non-self-selected and self-selected seclusion room use from September 2019 onward. The records show that data is trending downwards in use of seclusion rooms in the Division.

No data was collected during the pause on in-person learning from April 2020 to June 2020 as students were not physically in school.

Data for 2020-2021 reflects students attending in-person learning.

	Monthly Seclusion Room Use					
	Non-self selected	Unique Students	Self-selected	Unique Students	Total Use	Total Unique Students
2019 - 2020						
September 2019	267	93	538	146	805	239
October 2019	391	89	816	119	1207	208
November 2019	282	36	329	50	611	86
December 2019	250	15	144	25	394	40
January 2020	240	17	255	14	495	31
February 2020	205	29	132	15	337	44
March 2020	76	5	77	6	153	11
TOTAL	1711	284	2291	375	4002	659
2020-2021						
September 2020	60	28	104	52	164	80
October 2020	90	21	94	28	184	49
November 2020	84	15	88	5	172	20
TOTAL	234	64	286	85	520	149

Analysis of the data will be ongoing as part of Division work, as will the continuation of NVCi certification and recertification, and the recommended complex behaviour professional learning modules. The seclusion room data will be shared in the Monthly Superintendent Trustee Update.

KEY POINTS

- Data collected on use of operational seclusion rooms shows a decrease in usage from September 2019 to present.
- Data collection on physical restraint is new for the 2020-2021 school year and a record collection process is being reviewed and refined.
- There are 1,083 Division staff that have been certified or recertified in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, and 2,982 Division staff have attended one or more of the complex behaviour modules. All training will be accessible online for the 2020-2021 school year.

AP:lb