

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Marblehead Public Schools Conducts Administrative Review of Student Restraint Protocols

MARBLEHEAD – Interim Superintendent, Dr. Theresa B. McGuinness reports that the Marblehead Public Schools has begun a review of its policies and protocols as they relate to the student restraint process.

Recent incidents involving the restraint of a general education student at the Glover Elementary School have prompted the district to review when student restraints should be used, the procedures used during this process, and how restraints are reported at both the district and state level.

State guidelines allow staff who have received proper training and certification to restrain students, but only as a last resort in specific situations when a student's behavior poses a threat of assault, or imminent, serious, physical harm to self or others.

To ensure that the administrative review is thorough and unbiased, the district has secured the services of an outside evaluator, an attorney who specializes in education policy, who will work closely with the district. During the review process, four staff members at Glover School are on temporary paid administrative leave. This is not a punitive action, but it is necessary during this process.

The district pledges to move quickly and efficiently, and the district has plans and policies in place to ensure that there is no disruption to the school day or to student progress.

"The safety and security of all of our students and staff is our top priority," Interim Superintendent McGuinness said. "The district will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that all of our schools are safe and welcoming learning environments for all."

The district understands that this is a very sensitive matter and that parents and members of the community are likely to have questions about this. Interim Superintendent McGuinness is asking the community for patience and to allow the administrative review process to run to completion. The district will be transparent and forthcoming, insofar as the law allows. This includes making the administrative review document(s) available upon request when completed, with only legally-required redactions. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.