

Overview of Seclusion Working Group Enabling Legislation



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Minnesota 2025 Special Session Law, Chapter 10, Article 7, Sec. 10

- The Seclusion Working Group was established to evaluate the use of seclusion as an emergency procedure, and not as a discipline, as required in Minnesota Statutes section 125A.0942, subd. 3.

4 Legislative Appointments

- 2 members of the senate, one appointed by the senate majority leader and one appointed by the senate minority leader
- 2 members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the speaker and one appointed by the DFL Caucus

12 Joint Appointments who represent the following groups

- Special education directors from a setting 3 or 4 program
- Cooperative unites under MN Statutes, section 123A.24, that provide special education instruction and services
- Parents or family of students who have been secluded
- Teachers who work with students in a setting 3 or 4 program
- Paraprofessionals who work with students in a setting 3 or 4 program
- Licensed school psychologists or school counselors who work with students in a setting 3 or 4 program
- Organizations that represent students who are disproportionately affected by the use of restrictive procedures

Duties of the Working Group

- Evaluate the effectiveness of seclusion compared to other methods of restrictive procedures used in emergency situations on different age groups and in different educational settings
- Analyze how the lack of alternatives to seclusion forces children and their families to interact with the criminal justice system
- Evaluate workable alternatives to seclusion
- Consider the effects of seclusion on children's mental health, access to a free and appropriate public education, academic outcomes, and overall well-being

Duties of the Working Group

- Identify new and existing resources necessary for staff capacity and training, children's supports, child mental health services, and schoolwide collaborative efforts
- Visit school sites that currently use seclusion
- Review applicable laws defining and regulating seclusion in schools
- Report its findings and recommendations regarding the use of seclusion to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education no later than January 30, 2026

Chair, Administrative Support, Consultation

- Member appointed by the senate majority leader to convene the first meeting on or before August 15th, 2025. Working Group meetings must meet monthly and be open to the public.
- The Legislative Coordinating Commission will provide meeting space, technical and administrative support, and staff support for the working group.
- The Working Group must consult with the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services, including a representative from the Department of Human Services specializing in school-linked mental health.

Expiration

- The Working Group expires January 31st, 2026, or when the final report is submitted to the legislature, whichever is later.

Questions

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Legislative Coordinating Commission