

Minnesota Laws 2025, Chapter 10, Article 7, Section 10. SECLUSION WORKING GROUP.

Subdivision 1. Working group established. A working group is established to evaluate the use of seclusion as an emergency procedure and not as discipline, as required under Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0942, subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The working group consists of the following members:

(1) two duly elected and currently serving members of the senate, one appointed by the senate majority leader and one appointed by the senate minority leader;

(2) two duly elected and currently serving members of the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the speaker emerita of the house;

(3) eight members appointed jointly by the senate majority leader, the speaker of the house, and the speaker emerita of the house who represent the following groups:

(i) special education directors from a setting 3 or setting 4 program;

(ii) cooperative units under Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.24, that provide special education instruction and services;

(iii) parents or family members of students who have been secluded;

(iv) teachers who work with students in a setting 3 or setting 4 program;

(v) paraprofessionals who work with students in a setting 3 or setting 4 program;

(vi) licensed school psychologists or school counselors who work with students in a setting 3 or setting 4 program; and

(vii) organizations that represent students who are disproportionately affected by the use of restrictive procedures; and

(4) four members appointed jointly by the senate majority leader, the speaker of the house, and the speaker emerita of the house who meet the criteria of clause (3) or who are duly elected and currently serving legislators.

(b) The appointments must be made by August 1, 2025.

(c) Legislative members may receive per diem compensation and reimbursement for expenses according to the rules of their respective bodies. Other members of the working group are eligible for per diem compensation as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. Duties. The working group must:

(1) 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;

(2) analyze how the lack of alternatives to seclusion forces children and their families to interact with the criminal justice system;

(3) evaluate workable alternatives to seclusion;

(4) consider the effects of seclusion on children's mental health, access to a free and appropriate public education, academic outcomes, and overall well-being;

(5) identify new and existing resources necessary for staff capacity and training, children's supports, child mental health services, and schoolwide collaborative efforts;

(6) visit school sites that currently use seclusion;

(7) review applicable laws defining and regulating seclusion in schools; and

(8) 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.

Subd. 4. Chair; convening. (a) One member appointed by the senate majority leader must convene the first working group meeting on or before August 15, 2025. The working

group must meet at least monthly.

(b) Working group meetings must be open to the public.

Subd. 5. Administrative support. The Legislative Coordinating Commission must provide meeting space, technical and administrative support, and staff support for the working group. The working group may hold meetings in any publicly accessible location in the Capitol complex that is equipped with technology that can facilitate remote testimony.

Subd. 6. Consultation. 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.

Subd. 7. Expiration. The working group expires January 31, 2026, or on the date upon which the report required under subdivision 3 is submitted to the legislature, whichever is later.

Sec. 12. APPROPRIATION; LEGISLATIVE COORDINATING COMMISSION.

Subdivision 1. Legislative Coordinating Commission. The sum indicated in this section is appropriated from the general fund to the Legislative Coordinating Commission in the fiscal year designated.

Subd. 2. Seclusion working group. (a) For the seclusion working group:

\$120,000

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(b) This is a onetime appropriation.