



## The Maryland School for the Blind

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

As a school, we are required to have on file an order for all protective and stabilizing devices. According to Maryland state law, "protective or stabilizing device" means any device or material attached or adjacent to the student's body that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to any portion of the student's body for the purpose of:

1. Enhancing functional skills
2. Preventing self-injurious behavior
3. Ensuring safe positioning

Examples of protective or stabilizing devices include, but are not limited to, seat belts, elastane garments, leg braces, arm/hand splints, and ankle/foot orthotics (AFOs). If the purpose of the device does not meet any of the three aforementioned criteria and is not being used for "the purpose for which the manufacturer intended," (COMAR 13A.08.04.02), it is considered a mechanical restraint. Mechanical restraint in schools is prohibited in the state of Maryland.

Prescriptions/orders for protective and stabilizing devices must be written by a health provider. Prescribers of such devices are typically Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Orthotists, Psychologists or Primary Care Providers.

If your child currently uses any of the devices described above or you feel your child needs to wear a protective or stabilizing device of any type, please have your child's physician or other health provider complete the attached form and sign it. If MSB is recommending your child use a protective or stabilizing device, please review the attached form with your child's health provider and make modifications as necessary prior to requesting their signature.

Please submit the prescription to the Health Center, at which time it will be presented to the Restrictive Behavior Committee for review/approval. Depending on the device and its intended use, we may be required to develop a behavior plan that includes fading use of the device in order to use it at school. Please also note that we will need a new prescription from your child's health care provider at the beginning of every school year to continue use of the device.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Thank you.

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