

Introduction

During my thirty years as a school teacher and guidance counselor, I have seen many instances of students threatening staff, hurting others, and bringing weapons on campus. Isolation rooms were once commonly used as a safeguard against out of control students but are becoming obsolete. This leaves the door open for alternatives, as school administrators fear the consequences of parents who do not want their child disciplined. Educators are now being taught to use safe holds and escorts, but these are simply a stop-gate against the problems returning. Isolation rooms provided a safe haven for students to de-escalate. Holds and escorts attempt to do the same thing but often injure students due to their out-of-control behavior.

Students do not learn how to effectively solve their problems with any of the formerly stated tactics. These tools are merely in place to help the student de-escalate. After the escalation is over, students who are violent are often given cleanup duty on campus or a similar consequence. These solutions are not effective because the underlying causes of the anger and violence these students are exhibiting are never addressed. School staffs need to be conscious of how they discipline or enforce rules. They must address the problem at hand, and be an advocate for safety.

This book attempts to look at students' behavioral issues and gives several ways of helping students work through their behavioral concerns. It is not enough to say that our schools need to be a safe place; we must work together to provide the resources to help our students become well-adjusted human beings. In this book I will introduce the different categories students may fall into and how to address each specific circumstance.