



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234


OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES  
STATEWIDE COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION  
Room 1624 One Commerce Plaza • Albany, NY 12234  
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**DATED AND TIMELY REQUEST – 2<sup>nd</sup> Request**

May 2006

TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Superintendents of Special Act School Districts  
Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools  
Executive Directors of Approved In-State and Out-of-State Private Schools  
Executive Directors of Approved Preschool Programs

FROM: James P. DeLorenzo 

SUBJECT: Use of Aversive or Noxious Stimuli to Reduce or Eliminate Student Behaviors

The Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department will continue a discussion at its May 2006 meeting on a policy relating to the use of aversive or noxious stimuli to reduce or eliminate student behaviors. In preparation for this meeting, we are requesting that all public and private school-age and preschool programs, both in-state and out-of-state, serving New York State students with disabilities submit a response to the following information requests.

1. Do any of the educational/residential programs in your school/agency use any form of aversive or noxious stimuli to reduce or eliminate maladaptive behaviors?
2. If the answer to question #1 is yes, provide an operational definition of the term “aversive therapy” as used by your school/agency and attach a description of how aversive or noxious stimuli are used.
3. If applicable, provide a copy of the school’s/agency’s written policy on the use of aversive or noxious stimuli.

Attached are examples of aversive or noxious stimuli that should be considered in your responses.

**If you have not already responded to this request, it is important that you do so immediately.** You may submit your response by facsimile to the attention of Patricia Geary at (518) 402-3582 or by e-mail to [pgeary@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:pgeary@mail.nysed.gov). Please identify your school/agency and a contact person in your reply. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. Questions regarding this request may be directed to Ms. Geary at 518-473-2878.

Attachment

c: Rebecca H. Cort



### Examples of Aversive or Noxious Stimuli

- Noxious, painful, intrusive stimuli or activities intended to induce pain such as hitting, slapping, pinching, kicking, hurling, strangling, shoving, or other similar stimulus
- Any form of noxious, painful or intrusive spray or inhalant
- Any form of noxious tastes
- Electric shock
- Water spray to the face
- Pinches and deep muscle squeezes
- Withholding sleep, shelter, bedding, bathroom facilities, clothing, food or drink or essential nutrition or hydration as part of mealtimes
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- Withholding bathroom facilities, visitation or communication with family
- The use of chemical restraints instead of positive programs or medical treatments
- The placement of a child unsupervised or unobserved in a room from which the student cannot exit without assistance