

**FACTUAL SUMMARY OF THE FOUR STUDENT COMPLAINTS ALLEGING THE
USE OF UNLAWFUL RESTRAINTS AT
DAVISVILLE ACADEMY AND GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1. A.R. is a 10-year-old student in the North Kingstown school district. A.R. has a diagnosis of ADHD and Social Anxiety Disorder and has attended North Kingstown schools beginning in preschool and is currently in the fourth grade. A.R. has an IEP to address socio-emotional, behavioral, attention and reading needs, and had been educated in traditional classroom settings at various public schools in North Kingstown.

In January of 2022, A.R. was transferred to Davisville Academy in a setting more suited to work with students with behavioral difficulties. The transfer to Davisville came because of the child's noticeable withdrawal, failure to complete work and some behavioral issues. Since the transfer to Davisville, A.R. has been restrained and kept in a room that is "padded and cold" at least 14 times; some of the restraints lasted anywhere from 30-54 minutes and resulted in bruising on A.R.'s body. Not only has A.R. been restrained, but there have also been 50 "conduct reports" resulting in significant time out of class while serving in-school suspensions. A.R. has become a flight risk, most recently jumping out of a window to run from school.

It was not until A.R.'s mother secured legal counsel that the North Kingstown School District agreed to discuss out of district placement – which has finally been secured.

2. C.T. is a 6-year-old student in the West Warwick school district. C.T. has developmental delays, speech delays, ADHD, and PTSD, with an IEP in place to address needs for speech, emotional development and attention. During the previous school year, C.T. was in a preschool classroom with a 1:1 aide who was accused of sexually abusing several children. While not fully known if C.T. was one of those children, there was a worsening of behaviors after those allegations were made public.

For the current school year, C.T. was placed in a behavioral classroom at Greenbush Elementary school. Since the beginning of the year, C.T.'s parents have been made aware of at least 45 reports of restraint and/or physical escorts on C.T. In some cases, C.T. was restrained multiple times in one school day. There have been a few instances where C.T. has come home with bruises and bumps, including an incident involving a staff member allegedly "banging C.T. on the head." There have also been times where C.T. has had bathroom accidents because students in active restraint are not allowed to use the facilities.

C.T.'s parents note that their child's behavior has worsened since entering Greenbush. They have kept C.T. home as the school has been unwilling to discuss alternatives to C.T.'s placement and they do not feel he is safe at Greenbush.

3. S.E. is a 10-year-old student in the West Warwick school district. S.E. is a student with autism. Due to the Autism diagnosis, S.E. is often overwhelmed by large, loud environments. There is an

IEP in place to address emotional escalations by allowing for frequent breaks, including walk breaks, breaks to the OT room, and a chill zone with sensory toys as “coping strategies.” In the absence of breaks, S.E. may try to run from school, something that is exacerbated by hands on restraint.

During the current school year, S.E. was a student in a collaborative classroom at the Greenbush Elementary School. This classroom integrates regular students and special education students into one classroom. In just the first few weeks of the school year alone, S.E. had 18 reported incidents or conduct referrals – at least 5 of these involved restraint holds, and on at least 3 occasions, there was more than one incident per day. In October 2022, after a call from the school informing S.E.’s mother that S.E. would not be on the bus at dismissal time due to a behavioral incident, S.E.’s mother made her way to the school where she witnessed S.E. face down on the floor in a prone position being restrained by two adults in the “padded room,” a closet-sized room off a larger classroom.

Despite the noticeable changes to S.E.’s behavior, little was done to make any changes or improvements to existing plans. After the October 2022 incident, S.E.’s mother contacted legal counsel and requested out of district placement in a special therapeutic setting. S.E. was put on home instruction and later placed at the Providence Center School where behavioral issues seem to have disappeared and no restraints have been required.

4. T.E. is an 8-year-old student in the North Kingstown school district. T.E. has a diagnosis of ADHD, ODD, anxiety and PTSD and an active IEP. Prior to the family moving to North Kingstown, they lived in Narragansett and T.E. was enrolled in the Briggs School – a private special education school. T.E. was permitted to finish the 2020-2021 school year at Briggs, where T.E. was thriving, but was made to enroll at Davisville Academy the following school year.

Shortly after placement at Davisville, T.E.’s mother began receiving incident reports detailing incidents in which T.E. – who was in first grade -- was being restrained, sometimes by two people, and in some instances multiple times per day. T.E. was restrained at least 25 times, with some instances lasting over 30 minutes. T.E. would come home sometimes with bruises, and as a result of these restraints, he developed anxiety around going to school. He reverted back to bed wetting and began to urinate on himself at school. There was also at least one occasion in which T.E. jumped out of a window and ran almost to the street before being caught.

Despite all of these noticeable changes in behaviors, no actual changes were made to T.E.’s behavioral plans. In October of 2022, T.E.’s family demanded a transfer back to Briggs as they no longer felt Davisville was a safe place for their child. After threatening the family with a Truancy Court referral, the district eventually allowed for the transfer. Since returning to Briggs, the parents have not received any notices of elopement or restraint.