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TASH Commends OCR's Strong Stand Against Restraint and Seclusion

*Prince William County Schools enter into a
resolution agreement with the Office for Civil Rights*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - TASH commends the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights for investigating Virginia's Prince William County School's restraint and seclusion policy and its misalignment with practices that were occurring specifically within the Positive Attitude and Commitment to Education (PACE) East and West Program.

OCR's investigation, prompted by a 2012 complaint (<http://bit.ly/1vd4DZC>), found that the program has inappropriately used restraint and seclusion since 2012. In lieu of the findings, Prince William County Schools voluntarily entered into a resolution agreement with OCR.

"I'm really pleased to see OCR take such a strong stand against the disparate application of these dangerous practices," said Barb Trader, Executive Director of TASH. "Restraint and seclusion are both extremely dangerous and have no place in a school building, unless it is a true emergency situation."

The resolution agreement (<http://bit.ly/1uoLm3c>) requires Prince William County Schools to reevaluate the placement, services, and behavioral interventions for any student who was secluded or restrained since 2012. If the district decides that a student needs a change in placement or services to meet specific behavioral needs, then it will provide compensatory services. TASH believes the resolution agreement will lead to systemic changes including policy analysis and proactive professional development.

TASH continues to work with members, legislators, and policy influencers toward creating, revising, and aligning policy that promotes equitable access and opportunity for students with disabilities. TASH appreciates OCR's acknowledgement of the importance of proper and appropriate management of students who display challenging behaviors in the school setting.

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A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1975, we are a volunteer-driven organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. The inclusive practices we validate through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. More information about TASH can be found at www.tash.org.