



found he died of asphyxia, and three employees were charged with manslaughter and child abuse in his death. They've said publicly that they were following the facility's protocols.

Sequel Youth & Family Services, which operates the for-profit facility, has said that the workers did not follow policy and that restraint is to be used only in an emergency.

Here are three of the more than two dozen instances we found where Illinois children told the school workers restraining them that they couldn't breathe:

"Stop, I Can't Breathe" — March 2, 2018

Records from workers at the A.E.R.O. special educationing them

He tried to get out of the padded room by throwing himself against the door. Workers then restrained him because he did not "get his body under control," according to the incident records.

"Oh my God, I can't breathe, ow. God, I swear to God you broke

against school seclusion and restraint, tweeted this recently in response to Fredericks' death and Illinois' continued use of prone restraint:

Despite saying last year that she was "taken aback" to learn the extent that schools were using prone restraint, state schools Superintendent Carmen Ayala's administration ultimately allowed it for the upcoming year under pressure from some schools that rely on it. An Illinois State Board of Education spokeswoman has said the agency would like to see the practice banned.

Illinois lawmakers have vowed to vote this fall on legislation proposing a ban. Disability advocates say the discussion has taken on greater urgency with the deaths of Fredericks and Floyd — and their cries of "I can't breathe."