



## About Berkeley County School District

The Berkeley County School District (BCSD) in South Carolina represents a large, geographic area – from suburban communities just outside Charleston to rural areas. It serves a diverse population of **more than 30,000 students.**



## Challenges

Given its size, Berkeley County had a relatively minimal number of restraints. However, with an increased desire on the part of Chief Academics and Innovations Officer, Dr. Kelly Wulf, to look at the **impact of trauma on students**, the organization was very interested in working with Ukeru in order to explore alternative programs in an effort to further reduce restraints.

BCSD also sees Ukeru as a program that **can provide a safe school environment for students and staff.**

*“When you use Ukeru®, it’s something about that relationship that changes when you don’t actually put hands on them and don’t have to restrain them. That relationship is strengthened.”*

**PAUL GUNTHER**  
*Rehabilitative and Behavioral Health Services Director,  
Berkeley County School District*

## Working with Ukeru

Approximately **15 staff members were trained on Ukeru in 2018**. The system was rolled out to three elementary special education EDSC (Emotional Disabilities Self Contained) classrooms. Historically, the highest number of restraints occurred in these environments due to the students' limited coping skills.

At first, some staff were hesitant about the approach.

*"Last year, the class you'd think would want it the most was the most skeptical. By the end of the year, they had all really grasped the concepts that go with it and **are thrilled with the implementation,**"* says RBHS Director, Paul Gunther. *"Once word got around, we had people coming to us wanting us to bring Ukeru to their classrooms."*

## Results

Since implementing Ukeru...

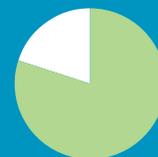
- **Restraints were reduced by 45%** in 10 months (between October 2018 and May 2019)
- In that same time period, out of the 110 incidents where Ukeru was used:
  - **80% ended** through the use of the approach
  - Far fewer resulted in seclusions
  - 10% ended in restraint
- The **use of Ukeru has been expanded** from four to 18 classrooms in just one year's time
- There is a plan for the 2019-20 school year to roll out Ukeru to Emotional Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder Disabilities classrooms **at all levels**.
- BCSD has been very encouraged by the results

*"We had people coming to us wanting us to bring Ukeru to their classrooms."*

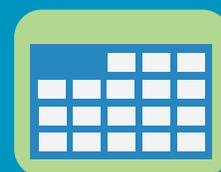
PAUL GUNTHER

# 45%

Less  
Restraints



80% of  
incidents ended  
with Ukeru



Plans to expand  
Ukeru next year