

Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Service Animals in Schools

The district acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 C.F.R. Part 35, subject to the following:

1. All requests for an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal must be addressed in writing to the superintendent and must contain required documentation of vaccinations. This written request must be delivered to the superintendent’s office at least ten (10) business days prior to bringing the service animal to school or a school function.
2. Owners of a service dog must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Paroinfluenza, Parivovirus, Coronavirus, Bordatella, and Rabies).
3. Owners of service miniature horses must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rhinoeumonitis, Influenza, and Strangles.
4. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
5. All service dogs must be treated for, and kept free of fleas and ticks.
6. All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
7. Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property.
8. The animal must be a dog or, in specific circumstances, a miniature horse. No other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted in schools as a “service animal.”
9. The animal must be “required” for the individual with a disability.
10. The animal must be “individually trained” to do work or a task for the individual with a disability.

11. Special Provisions/Miniature Horses: Requests to permit a miniature horse to accompany a student or adult with a disability in school buildings, in classrooms, or at school functions will be handled on a case-by-case basis, considering:
 - a. The type, size, and weight of the miniature, and whether the facility can accommodate these features.
 - b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse.
 - c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken.
 - d. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.
12. Removal of a Service Animal: A school Administrator may ask an individual with a disability or his parents to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a school function if any requirements listed above are not met.
13. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, hand signals, or other effective means).
14. The school system is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, *including walking the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself*.
 - a. The district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
 - b. Students with service animals are expected to care and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise his service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal.
 - c. Issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the building administrator.

Legal Reference: ADA Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (as amended, 2010)

Policy History: No Prior Policy
Adopted on: December 12, 2011
Revised on: