



## **SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS**

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The Mead School District Board of Directors acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” as required by federal laws and Washington State’s law against discrimination. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses and at school activities.

A “service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person’s sensory, mental or physical disability.

The parent/guardian of a student who believes the student needs to bring a service animal to school or an employee who wishes to bring a service animal to school, must submit a written notification to the building principal or building administrator. The building principal/administrator, in consultation with the Section 504 Coordinator or Director of Special Services, as appropriate, will review the written notification to determine the specific work/tasks that will be performed by the service animal and set up a meeting to discuss the logistics of the service animal attending school.

The superintendent or superintendent designee will develop procedures to implement the policy.

Cross References:

- 5010 - Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action
- 3210 - Nondiscrimination
- 2162 - Education of Students With Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- 2161 - Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
- 6800 – Safety, Operations & Maintenance of School Property

Legal References:

- American Disabilities Act (ADA), Revised Title II Regulations, \_35 Service animals
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- RCW 28A.642 Discrimination Prohibition
- RCW 49.60.040 Definitions
- WAC 162-26 Public accommodations, disability discrimination

WAC 392-145-021(3) General operating requirements

WAC 392-172A-01035 Child with a disability or student eligible for special education

WAC 392-172A-01155 (3) Related services

WAC 392-190 Equal education opportunity - Unlawful discrimination prohibited

**Adopted:** May 7, 2018