

Dogs on School Property - What's Allowed?

Injuries caused by dogs on campus generally will not be covered by the district's insurance and, therefore, dogs are allowed on school property only under certain circumstances. The following guidelines are offered to provide clarity as to when a dog may be permitted on campus.

1. A **service dog** within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act is permitted if first approved by the District's 504 Compliance Specialist, Shannon Numair. (Note that emotional support/therapy dogs used by an individual students are not covered by the ADA and are not permitted.)

2. **School-sponsored events** involving therapy dogs, such as reading programs and support during finals, MAY be permitted if:

- the dog is properly vetted with a national therapy dog association, has liability insurance and health certificate/vaccinations, and
- the school has taken appropriate steps to ensure students, staff and volunteers with allergies and immuno-compromised conditions are protected by working with your School Nurse Consultant and providing advance notice to your community about the event.

Contact the Office of Legal Counsel to review this information before approving an event involving a dog. A special insurance policy endorsement may be needed.

3. **Show and tell** with family pets is not permitted.

4. District **employees are not permitted to bring pet dogs to school**, whether or not students are in the building.

5. **Service dogs officially "in training"** (not "puppy raisers") MAY be permitted if a student is the actual trainer (not when a parent is the trainer). Contact the Office of Legal Counsel before approving.

6. Community members, parents and students should refrain from bringing dogs on campus during **drop off and pick up times**. Principals may use their discretion as to how to handle individual situations.

7. Schools may be permitted to post notice that dogs are not allowed on school playgrounds or other outside areas (even when school is not in session) if there is a documented history of problem behaviors over time. Contact BVSD Operations if your school is having issues with neighbors not picking up after their dogs, etc. to discuss whether signage is appropriate.

Please contact Larissa Briscoombe (larissa.briscombe@bvsd.org, 720.561.5903) with questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

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