

**ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOLS**  
Independent School District No. 623

Policy 748-R – Service Animals and Therapy Animals in Schools

- 1.0 Use of service animals and therapy animals by staff or students and participants with a disability, or for the social and emotional benefit of the school climate and culture, is subject to the following procedures and requirements.
- 2.0 A service animal is an animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.
  - 2.1 Service animals do not include wild animals, farm animals and rodents, and animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being.
  - 2.2 The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. An animal whose sole function is as a pet or to provide comfort or emotional support does not qualify as a service animal under this policy, regulation, or law.
  - 2.3 Staff or parents must submit a Request Approval Form for Use of a Service Animal to the Director of Student Services. Such request must identify and describe the need for the service animal as it relates to the staff member or student's disability and describe the manner in which the service animal will meet the individual's particular need(s).
  - 2.4 Requests for use of service animals on district property must, whenever possible, be made no less than three (3) weeks prior to the proposed use of the service animal. Under no circumstances may a service animal be on district property without prior approval by the Director of Student Services.
  - 2.5 The District's consideration of a request for the use of a service animal may require documentation, including, but not limited to:
    - 2.5.1 Proof that the animal is properly trained and licensed
    - 2.5.2 Certification of proper inoculations verified by a veterinarian
    - 2.5.3 Proof the handler for the service animal is properly trained
    - 2.5.4 Copy of adequate liability insurance
- 3.0 Approval of the use of a service animal on District property is subject to periodic review, revision or revocation by Administration.

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- 3.1 Service animals must wear proper identification and always be on a leash or other form of restraint mechanism. It is the responsibility of the staff or student (parent) who uses the service animal to be the certified handler, providing the proper handling of the service animal.
- 3.2 The District retains discretion to exclude or remove a service animal from its property if:
  - 3.2.1 The animal is out of control and/or the animal's handler does not effectively control the animal's behavior.
  - 3.2.2 The animal is not house broken, or its presence or behavior fundamentally interferes in the functions of the school.
  - 3.2.3 The service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable modifications.
- 3.3 The staff or student/parent is liable for any damage to District or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by their service animal. The staff or student/parent who uses a service animal on District property will hold the District harmless and indemnify the District from any such damages. Further, the staff or student/parent will be required to submit a certificate of liability insurance covering the service animal and identifying the District as an additional insured.
- 3.4 A visitor with a disability accompanied by a service animal shall be authorized to access a school or district facility at school/district functions.
  - 3.4.1 In order for the service dog to be permitted to visit the school, a written request must be submitted to the principal 15 school days prior to the visit or as soon as possible.
  - 3.4.2 The service animal must be under the control of the handler during the visit. Failure to do so may be subject to removal from the school.
- 4.0 A therapy dog is a dog professionally trained by an accredited or certified authority for the social and emotional benefit of students. Therapy dogs are not considered trained service dogs as described by the ADA.
- 4.1 Therapy animals are independently owned by school employees who have been individually trained, evaluated, and registered with their therapy animal to provide animal assisted activities, therapy, and interactions within the school.

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- 4.2 Therapy animals must meet standards of health as prescribed by veterinarians at the owner's expense. The District bears no financial responsibility for the required therapy animal training, care, feeding, health, and behavior.
- 4.3 Therapy animals in the school setting shall be recommended by the school administration to the Superintendent or designee for approval. Prior to recommendation and approval, owners shall provide:
  - 4.3.1 Certification of proper inoculations verified by a veterinarian
  - 4.3.2 Visible cleanliness of dog with no sign of fleas/ticks
  - 4.3.3 A visually healthy, alert and not grossly over or underweight animal
  - 4.3.4 Proof of physical and healthy stool sample analysis
  - 4.3.5 Proof of heartworm test
  - 4.3.6 A copy of the owner's current homeowner's or renter's insurance Policy
- 5.0 These requirements must be met on an annual basis, prior to the start of any school year.
- 6.0 The principal shall notify parents and staff on an annual basis regarding the presence of therapy animals in the school.

Adopted: 8/29/2022