

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

No. 207A

Board of Trustees

Douglas County School District

PROGRAMS

Service Animals

Individuals who, because of the nature of their disability, require the assistance of a "service animal," to access Douglas County School District programs, activities, events and facilities shall not be denied access. Individuals requiring the use of service animals will be permitted (accompanied by their service animal) in all areas non-disabled persons are allowed to access. No additional fee will be charged to an individual with a service animal even if a fee is charged to non-disabled persons accompanied by a pet.

The following administrative regulation provides information on the process of approval and general procedural guidelines.

A service animal may be any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Additionally, miniature horses can be certified as a "service animal." The type, size and weight of the miniature horse, the handler's control of the animal, whether the horse is house broken, as well as whether the facility can accommodate the animal, must be considered before approval.

Permission for a service animal to accompany a person on Douglas County School District campuses may be obtained through the Superintendent of Douglas County School District at 1638 Mono Avenue, Minden, Nevada, 89423. The request must include documentation of all required vaccinations and be submitted in writing at least ten (10) business days prior to the service animal's commencement of service. Upon approval by the Superintendent, annual proof of vaccination for a service dog must include DHLPPC (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies. For a miniature horse service animal, proof of annual vaccinations include Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephalomyelitis, Rhinoneumonitis, Influenza, and Strangles.

The Superintendent will not inquire about the nature or extent of the person's disability. In addition, proof of the animal's certification, licensure or training will not be questioned. However, the Superintendent may ask for the following when considering the request: whether the service animal is required because of the disability; and the nature of the work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

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The Douglas County School District or building administrator may request that an individual with a disability or his parents remove a service animal from a building, classroom, or from a school function if any one of the following circumstances occur:

- a. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it.
- b. The animal relieves itself at will and corrective action is not taken to ensure there are no future incidents.
- c. The animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

However, if a service animal is excluded, the individual with the disability shall have the opportunity to continue to access the program, activity, event and facility without having the service animal on the premise.

Guidelines for the use of Service Animals on DCSD properties:

1. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
2. All service animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks, and must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
3. The owner of the service animal is liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors and/or property.
4. All service animals must be "required" for the individual with a disability.
5. All service animals must be "individually trained" to do work or a task for the individual with a disability.
6. Within reason, the service animal must not disrupt the education setting.
7. All service animals must have a harness, leash, or other tether.
8. The Douglas County School District 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. Students with service animals are expected to care for 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 animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal.
9. If approval for the service animal is granted by the Superintendent, each school's administrator should consider the following:
 - a. A rest place for the animal (such as a crate in a quiet place).
 - b. Rest times for the animal (gym, lunch, and recess can be difficult school periods for a service animal to successfully endure).
 - c. Emergency evacuation plan.

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- d. Fire drill plan/participation.
- e. Pre-treating the school facility on a regular basis to reduce animal-borne allergens.
- f. An alternate accommodation/plan in the event the animal's primary handler (if not the child) or the animal is not able to accompany the person with the disability to school.
- g. Training for any aides who may handle the animal, other than the primary handler.
- h. A school-wide educational program to educate others on how to behave appropriately around the service animal.

Legal Reference: Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II Regulations as amended in 2010, 28 C.F.R. Part 35.

See Board Policy related to this Administrative Regulation

Legal Reference: NRS 193.021
NRS 193.155
NRS 383.410
NRS 574.615

Date Adopted: 10/11/11