

SERVICE ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES FOR ASSISTANCE OF STUDENTS

Service animals, including dogs and miniature horses trained or being trained as a hearing animal, a guide animal, as assistance animal, a seizure alert animal, a mobility animal, a psychiatric service animal, an autism service animal, or any other animal individually trained to perform tasks for the benefit of a student with a disability, shall be permitted to accompany that student at all times at all student functions, whether or not outside the classroom, provided a Service Animal Accommodation Request form is completed and submitted to, and prior authorization is obtained from, the Building Principal. This policy applies only to appropriately trained service animals. A pet is not a service animal unless specially trained.

Upon receiving the Accommodation Request Form, the Building Principal will determine whether the animal is a service animal. In making this determination, the Building Principal may inquire as to the animal's function and training. Any documentation or information relevant to this inquiry may be submitted along with the form. In determining whether a student shall be permitted to be accompanied by a miniature horse, the Building Principal will consider its type, size and weight and whether the school can accommodate its features, whether the student has sufficient control of the miniature horse, whether the miniature horse is housebroken, and whether the miniature horse's presence compromises the safety of others. A student may challenge the Building Principal's determination by filing a discrimination complaint pursuant to the Uniform Grievance Procedure (Policy 2:260).

Notwithstanding this provision, the Building Principal may exclude any service animals whose behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, if the animal behaves inappropriately, such as by barking, growling, or threatening others, the Building Principal may ask the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) not to bring the animal onto school property until it can be trained to behave properly. It is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to ensure the animal is properly trained and behaves appropriately while on school premises. If others are allergic or are otherwise disrupted by the presence of the animal on school premises, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Building Principal must try to resolve the problem. For example, there may be environmental or animal-care measures that can reduce allergens, such as special dog shampoos that eliminate dander. If there is no way that the animal can safely remain in the student's immediate class area, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and Building Principal shall explore the option of relocating the student and/or animal to a more appropriate environment.

LEGAL REF.: *Illinois School Code*, 105 ILCS 5/14-6.02 (Service Animals)
 The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.
 And 12131 et seq.; 28 C.F.R. Part 35
 Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*, 29 U.S.C. 794; 34
 C.F.R. Part 104

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure)

ADOPTED: November 26, 2013