



DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Due to health, safety and sanitation concerns, Regional School District #10 Board of Education (the “Board”) does not permit dogs on school grounds during school instructional day hours.

Dogs shall be permitted on school grounds outside of school instructional day hours in accordance with the following requirements:

- All dogs must be licensed by the local licensing authority and vaccinated in accordance with state law.
- All dogs must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while on school property unless such devices interfere with a service animal’s work or the handler’s disability prevents use of such devices. In that case, the handler must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the animal.
- Dogs are not allowed on any athletic playing fields or surfaces at any time.
- Dog owners/handlers must clean-up and dispose of dog waste.

Dogs are not allowed in school buildings outside of instructional hours with the exception of dogs that meet the requirements to be defined as a “service animal” in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

If found in violation of these requirements the owner/handler will be required to remove the dog from school property immediately.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board complies with all laws and regulations regarding to use of service animals by individuals with disabilities, as those terms are defined by federal and state laws and regulations. “Service animal” means 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. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. For purposes of this policy, 1) a service animal includes a *guide dog* or *assistance dog* for a blind, deaf or mobility impaired person as outlined in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-44; 2) a service animal is **not** a pet; 3) a service animal in-training is **not** a service animal except for a dog being trained to assist a blind, deaf or mobility impaired individual; 4) companionship, comfort, therapy or



emotional support animals do **not** qualify as service animals and 5) other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained are **not** service animals.

In addition, the Superintendent of Schools or building administrators may permit law enforcement officials to be accompanied by canine police officers on school grounds.

Legal References:

State Law:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-339b Rabies vaccination required for dogs and cats.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-44 Access of guide and assistance dogs to modes of public transportation and in places of public accommodation.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-64 Discriminatory public accommodations practice prohibited.

Federal Law:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*

28 C.F.R. § 35.104 Definitions.

28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7) General prohibitions against discrimination.

28 C.F.R. § 35.136 Service Animals.

28 C.F.R. § 36.302(c) Modifications in policies, practices, or procedures.

ADOPTED: November 13, 2023

REVISED: