

ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health and safety of students while enriching the school curriculum and student support with visits/lessons regarding animals.

II. CROSS-REFERENCE

This policy references non-service animals. For District policy regarding service animals, please see Policy 535.

III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Prior Written Permission Required

Prior written permission from the building administrator must be obtained before any animal is brought onto school premises. Parents/handlers wishing to bring animals on school premises can obtain permission forms in each building office. A copy of this form is attached as an addendum to this policy.

Building administrators have complete discretion as to whether to allow animals on the premises.

B. Non-Service Animals for Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans

If a special education student or a student with a Section 504 plan seeks to bring an animal onto school property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the student's IEP team or Section 504 team, as appropriate, to determine whether the animal is necessary for the student to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) or, in the case of a Section 504 student, to reasonably accommodate the student's access to the school district's programs and activities.

C. Non-Service Animal as an Accommodation for Employees

If an employee seeks to bring an animal onto school property that is not a service animal, the request shall be referred to the superintendent or the administrator designated to handle such requests. A school district employee who is a qualified individual with a disability will be allowed to bring such animal onto school property when it is determined that such use is required to enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his or her position or to enjoy the benefits of employment in a manner comparable to

those similarly situated non-disabled employees.

D. Proof of Inoculation

Animal owners/handlers must present proof of all inoculations for the animal, including rabies and other necessary inoculations, before permission is granted by the administrator.

E. Restraint/Handling

All animals must be properly restrained and controlled at all times in appropriate cages, tanks or leashes. Owners/handlers violating this provision will be asked to leave school premises immediately. Laboratory animals (mammals, fish, reptiles and birds) that are part of a curriculum project may be brought into a classroom for the duration of the project, but they must be kept in appropriate, properly maintained cages/containers.

F. Individuals with Health Concerns

Individuals with health concerns such as animal allergies and/or asthma will not be displaced from their assigned location due to the presence of a non-service animal. Before bringing an animal into the classroom, instructors will ask about health issues. If there are no health issues, instructors will take the following steps:

1. Animals brought in for demonstration projects will be removed from the building as quickly as reasonably as possible following the event.
2. Animals used for curriculum purposes will be segregated from students/faculty with health concerns. If the health issue is significant, the instructor will develop an alternative lesson for the class and not bring the animal into the classroom.
3. Non-allergenic animals (reptiles, amphibians, most insects, crabs and fish) will be used whenever possible as an alternative to birds and animals.
4. Regarding animals brought in for emotional support, all animals and handlers will meet all requirements of this policy.

G. Signage

Signs will be posted on school grounds that animals are not allowed on school property without permission of a school administrator.

H. Certified Handlers

Certified handlers working with an accredited therapy or non-service animal program, meeting all requirements of this policy, who are in the building to provide social emotional support or provide therapy for

students, will be allowed on school property with permission from the building administrator.

Adopted and Approved: 08/06/01

Revised 02/04/08 12/6/21 12/11/23

Reviewed 01/10/11 05/21/18 12/02/13 12/05/16