

POLICY – SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

2030

Use of a service animal by a student, staff member, parent/guardian, or other individual with a disability will be allowed in schools and on district property, as required by federal law and Washington State’s law against discrimination.

This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses, and at school activities. A “service animal” is an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person’s sensory, mental or physical disability. The parent/guardian of a student who believes the student requires the support of a service animal at school, or an employee who requires a service animal at school, must submit a written request to the building principal. The building principal, in consultation with the superintendent’s designee, Executive Director of Student Support, or 504 Coordinator, as appropriate, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school.

Service animals in training are permitted access to areas where any member of the public is permitted to attend. With permission of the superintendent or designee, service animals in training are permitted in private areas of the school, where the general public is not permitted, such as classrooms while school is in session.

Adopted: October 6, 2020 North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors