

## Animals as Part of the Instructional Program

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Requests to include live animals, on a short-term basis (no more than three weeks), in the instructional program of the classroom or school will be submitted to the principal for approval. Requests to include live animals, on a long-term basis (more than three weeks), in the instructional program of the classroom or school will be submitted to the principal and the Facilities & Planning Department lead administrator for joint approval. Health issues (allergies & vaccinated status of the animal) involving student/staff and animal housing issues will be addressed before permission is given to allow the animal in the school. Guidelines, as set forth by the Spokane County Regional Health District, regarding the appropriate handling and care of animals in the classroom, will be adhered to whenever animals are approved on a short-term or long-term basis. These guidelines include but are not limited to food storage and cleaning/maintenance of animal cages/tanks.

If the instructional program involving the animal is long-term, and the animal will remain at school when school is not in session, appropriate arrangements for the animal's care must be made. Animals will not be transported in a school vehicle.

Any animal that is part of the instructional program will be under the reasonable control of its adult-owner, the teacher or designated students, at all times.

Only animals approved as part of the instructional program are allowed in Mead School District classrooms and schools.

This policy does not apply to service animals for the disabled.

The superintendent or superintendent designee will develop procedures to implement the policy.

Cross References: 2030 – Service Animals in Schools

Legal References: WAC 392-145-021(3) General Operating Requirements

**Adopted: July 25, 2018**