Book	Board of Education Policies
Section	J Students
Title	Animals in District Schools
Code	JLIF
Status	Active
Legal	C.R.S. §40-9-109 28 CFR § 35.136 C.R.S. §24-34-803, 804
Adopted	November 1, 2010
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Prior Revised Dates	03/12/2013

The District recognizes that the use and presence of animals in District classrooms may provide educational, social, and emotional benefits for District students. The District further recognizes that it has an obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of all District students and staff. To that end, the District will comply with Colorado law and federal regulations and the guidance of the Center for Disease Control with regard to allowing animals in District classrooms.

The District is committed to protecting the rights of persons with Assistance Dogs and Service Animals and will permit Assistance Dogs and Service Animals on school premises and on school transportation in accordance with 28 CFR § 35.136, and related regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act, C.R.S. §24-34-803, 804, and §40-9-109 and this policy JLIF.

The term “Assistance Dog” is defined as a dog that has been or is being specially trained by a person who is qualified as a trainer of Assistance Dogs to aid a disabled student and includes guide dogs for the visually impaired, hearing dogs for the hearing impaired, and service dogs for the physically disabled. The term “Service Animal” is defined as a dog that has been 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 student’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.

Trainer qualifications may be established by any reasonable means, but a trainer shall be deemed qualified if he/she is affiliated with a national organization and provides certification that he/she has passed such organization's training criteria. Other species of animals apart from dogs, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not defined as Service Animals or Assistance Dogs.

Appropriate school site and District personnel will work with the parents of the student using the Assistance Dog or Service Animal to develop a written plan (e.g., health-care plan) to permit the use of an Assistance Dog or Service Animal in the school building, on school transportation vehicles, and at school sponsored activities. The plan shall include reasonable modifications of policies, practices, or procedures or the provision of auxiliary aids or services to mitigate the risk of harm to students and staff members with animal dander allergies or other disability-related reactions such that the presence of the Assistance Dog or Service Animal constitutes a direct threat to health or safety, and thereby causes interference with any student's education or the educational program of the District. In determining whether an Assistance Dog or Service Animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, the District will make an individualized assessment on a case by case basis, based on reasonable judgment that relies on current medical knowledge or on the best available objective evidence.

The District shall not assume or take custody or control of, or responsibility for, any Assistance Dog or Service Animal or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or the person having custody and control of the Assistance Dog or Service Animal shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the Assistance Dog or Service Animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.

If, in the judgment of the building principal or authorized designee, any Assistance Dog or Service Animal is out of control in the school setting or during District transportation, the matter shall be immediately reported to local law enforcement, and the permission granted pursuant to this policy JLIF may be immediately revoked. The parent or guardian of the student having custody and control of the Assistance Dog or Service Animal will be required to remove the Assistance Dog or Service Animal from District premises immediately.

In addition to the plan described above, when a student will be accompanied by an Assistance Dog or Service Animal at school or in other District facilities on a regular basis, such student's parent or guardian, as well as the dog's owner and any other person who will have custody and control of the dog will be provided a document containing parameters and conditions applicable to the use of an Assistance Dog or Service Animal at school, and copies of applicable statutes and regulations.

The District also recognizes that under specific circumstances the presences of animals other than service dogs may provide educational benefits to students. The Board delegates to the Superintendent and his/her designee(s) authority to grant teachers approval to keep an animal in the classroom for instructional purposes (hereinafter a "Classroom Pet"). In order to protect the health and safety of all staff and students, the following rules related to Classroom Pets must be observed:

- All animals must be certified as healthy and fully vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian.
- All animals must receive appropriate veterinary check-ups and care.
- Reptiles, amphibians, poultry, rodents, or ferrets are not permitted in any school room used by children under 5 years of age. Nor shall any child under the age of 5 be permitted to handle any Classroom Pet.
- Adults must always supervise children's contact with animals. Children shall not be permitted to put their hands or objects in their mouth while around animals.

- Classroom Pets must be kept in a specific area in the classroom in an appropriate enclosure/habitat. Animals are not allowed to roam freely around the classroom and shall not be kept in areas where food or drink is prepared, stored, served, or eaten.
- Parents must be notified that there is a Classroom Pet. Parents must be consulted to determine special considerations for children who have allergies, asthma, or other illnesses.
- Students must wash their hands with water and soap right after handling animals, animal food, or animal enclosures (for example, cages, terrariums, aquariums, water bowls, and toys).
    - Adults, including teachers, should always supervise handwashing for young children.
    - Hand sanitizer should be used if running water and soap are not available. If you only use hand sanitizer, be sure to wash your hands with soap and water as soon as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas where animals have been.
- Animal enclosures/habitats must be regularly cleaned and maintained by an adult.
- No dangerous animals shall be permitted in District schools.

Any teacher wishing to keep a Classroom Pet must submit a Classroom Pet Application to his/her principal and receive approval for the Classroom Pet prior to bringing any animal to a school building.

JLIF - Application for Requesting an Animal in the Classroom.pdf (98 KB)