

## Lakeland Joint School District

### INSTRUCTION

2580

#### Use of Animals in Educational Programs

Animals may be brought into the school setting for educational purposes only in accordance with the policies of the District and the procedures established by the Superintendent and building principal with regard to the presence of animals.

This policy does not apply to service animals. Students, guests, and/or employees may use service animals that are handled in accordance with applicable state laws, federal laws, and Policy 2375. Likewise, police and SRO K-9 use is handled in accordance with applicable school search policies and state regulations.

The Superintendent and building principal may place additional guidelines or restrictions upon the presence of specific animals in the school setting. Further, the presence of any animal, whether regularly or periodically housed in a classroom or brought into the school for an isolated or singular visit, requires approval from the building principal prior to bringing any animal onto school grounds.

#### Animals Regularly or Periodically Housed in Classrooms

1. No animal shall be housed in any school classroom without pre-approval of the building principal.
  - A. Any teacher seeking to house an animal in any classroom shall submit a request in writing explaining the educational purpose of having the animal in the classroom setting.
  - B. The teacher signing the request application is responsible for assuming primary responsibility for the animal.
2. Prior to exposing any student to a live animal in the classroom, the teacher shall provide written notification to the parents, guardians, and/or legal custodians and include a copy of Form 2580F Student Permission Form for Exposure to Animals to obtain parental/guardian/legal custodian consent. No animal shall be brought into the classroom until all consent forms are returned.
  - A. Copies of completed Form 2580F shall be maintained in the classroom by the teacher and a copy maintained by the building administration.
  - B. The teacher shall consult with any parent, guardian, and/or legal custodian when health concerns are identified on Form 2580F.
3. The teacher shall provide written classroom instruction to students regarding sanitation in the handling of animals.

4. Any student handling any animal must be directly supervised by the teacher.
  - A. Only students designated by the teacher may handle a classroom animal.
  - B. Handling of any animals should be developmentally appropriate.
  - C. Should any individual be injured associated with the handling of a classroom animal, the teacher is responsible for immediately reporting such an event, in writing, to the building principal and directing the individual to the school's office for appropriate medical care.
    1. A District accident/injury report shall be completed and provided to the building principal and Human Resources Director.
    2. The school's personnel shall notify the student's parent/guardian/legal custodian.
    3. At no time shall any student be exposed to any animal prohibited on form 2580F.
5. Animals shall be handled humanely and in a healthy environment. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher shall be responsible for making arrangements for their care and safety.
6. Animals shall be displayed in enclosures that prevent escape.
  - A. Upon placement in the classroom, the building principal shall inspect the enclosure and ensure that it meets standards for safeguarding the health and welfare of students.
  - B. Under no circumstances shall any student be allowed to clean any animal enclosure.
  - C. Under no circumstance shall any student be allowed to intentionally touch or come into contact with any animal waste.
7. Animals maintained in a classroom shall not have access to or contact with wild animals on school grounds.
8. No animal shall be permitted to freely roam about any classroom or other area of the school.
9. No animal shall be allowed on any surface where food or drink is stored, prepared, or consumed.
10. Food for animals must be stored in air-tight closed containers.
  - D. No "live-feeding" shall occur in the school setting without written parental consent and permission from the building principal.

11. The teacher shall be responsible for the proper cleaning and disinfection of any area in which the animal is present.
  - A. The teacher, building principal, and custodial staff shall determine any necessary precautions for cleaning and maintenance of the classroom, around the animal, and where the teacher shall deposit animal waste.
  - B. The teacher shall be responsible for the disposal of animal waste, using appropriate plastic bags and disposable gloves and sanitary cleansers.
12. Prior to the animal being brought into the classroom, the teacher is responsible for securing any special permits, licenses, or other requirements necessary to own and house the animal. The building principal shall be provided with a copy of any required documentation. Any animal not in compliance shall not be brought into the school's setting. Any health care records associated with the animal shall be maintained in the classroom and is the responsibility of the teacher.
13. The building principal shall be responsible for keeping a list of any and all animals that are present in classrooms.
  - A. Should a new animal be brought into the school setting, or an existing animal leave the school setting, the teacher is responsible for notifying the building principal.
  - B. The building principal is responsible for providing a copy of the list of any and all animals to the Superintendent.
14. No animal shall be transported on any school bus.

#### Visiting Animals to the Schools

1. As part of an educational program, there may be instances in which an animal is brought into the school's setting. Prior to any such animal coming into the school setting, pre-approval must be obtained from the building principal no less than five (5) school days prior to the scheduled event.
2. A written request must be submitted to the building principal which includes the following:
  - A. The date and activity requested;
  - B. Detail as to the relevance of the animal to the educational program;
  - C. The animal(s) requested to be allowed on school property;
  - D. The duration of the animal's presence on school grounds;
  - E. Information as to how the health and safety of students, school personnel, and the animal will be addressed; and
  - F. Copies of current health records and/or proof of current vaccination, as detailed herein.
3. The animal's owner agrees to hold the District, its employees, agents, and students harmless

for any injury to the animal, including death, and any injury to any individual, including the handler, school staff, or school student.

### Animal Dissection or Experiments

1. Dissection experiments on living animals are prohibited;
2. Behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible only after having obtained written pre-approval from the building principal.
  - A. The teacher must submit a written request providing details as to the behavior study to be conducted, the manner and details of the study, and how the health and welfare of students and the animal will be safeguarded.
  - B. A request shall be submitted no later than five (5) school days prior to the desired start of the behavior study.
3. The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in a classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is part of the approved educational program of the classroom.
  - A. Prior to scheduling any educational dissection, the teacher shall confer with the building principal to address the scheduling and approval of the educational activity. Such discussion shall occur no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled classroom activity.
  - B. All dissection of animals and the parts of dissected animals shall be confined to the classroom.
  - C. Parents, guardians, or legal custodians may opt-out their student from performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals if they notify the teacher in writing pursuant to 2580P. Students may be excused during such educational activity without penalty, discipline, or negative impact upon the student's grade. Alternate projects will be assigned to any such non-participating student.

### Prohibited Animals

1. The following live animals are prohibited in any school facility without a profession handler and approval from the building principal:
  - A. Any non-domesticated animal;
  - B. Any venomous or toxin producing animals;
  - C. Any animal with a known history of aggression or behavioral problems.
  - D. Stray animals or animals with no health or vaccination history;

- E. Mammals at high risk for having or transmitting rabies; and
  - F. Any animal on the Idaho Invasive Species List for which proper state permitting and documentation of ownership has not been obtained prior to classroom housing (i.e. Snapping Turtle, Red Eared Slider, Mediterranean Gecko, Brahminy Blind Snake, Monk Parakeet, and Nutria).
2. The building principal may prohibit any animal from being present upon the school's property on a case by case basis.

### Health and Vaccination Requirements

1. All higher order animals (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians) are required to have an annual well-check examination from a licensed veterinarian. Documentation of the examination and verification of a healthy animal status from the veterinarian shall be provided to the building principal. Any recommendations by the veterinarian for care that impact the learning environment and/or health of staff and students must be followed by the owner.
2. The following animals have additional requirements that must be met prior to being allowed on school grounds:
  - A. Cats: Proof of current vaccination from a licensed veterinarian against feline distemper/upper respiratory disease (FVRCP), and rabies. Proof of a negative fecal exam or successful treatment for intestinal parasites within the last six months may also be required.
  - B. Dogs: Proof of current vaccination against canine distemper, adenovirus-2, leptospirosis, canine parainfluenza (CPVI), Parvovirus, and rabies. Proof of a negative fecal exam or successful treatment for intestinal parasites within the last six (6) months may also be required.
  - C. Ferrets: Proof of current vaccination against rabies. Proof of a negative fecal exam or successful treatment for intestinal parasites within the last six months may also be required.
  - D. Psittacine Birds (parrots, parakeets, budgies and cockatiels): Proof of treatment or negative test results for psittacosis (avian Chlamydiosis) during current ownership, or as recommended by a licensed veterinarian.
3. In the event of a conflict or disagreement surrounding this policy, the Superintendent shall make the final determination as to whether or not any animal may be present on school property during school hours or for any school function. When making such a determination, the primary factor of consideration shall first be the health and welfare of students.

## Farm Animal Exemption

With written notice to parents, guardians, and/or legal custodians, and the completion of Form 2580F, the building principal may authorize traditional farm animals under twelve (12) weeks old, to be brought onto school grounds as a visiting animal without adherence to the health and vaccination requirements listed above.

Cross References:            Policy 2340    Controversial Issues and Academic Freedom  
                                 Policy 2345    Speakers in the Classroom and at School Functions  
                                 Policy 2375    Service Animals in Schools  
                                 Policy 3370    Searches and Seizure

Legal Reference:            I.C. § 33-6001 Parental Rights

### Policy History:

Adopted on:                    May 8th, 2024

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