

## **Animals as Part of the Instructional Program**

Liberty School District understands that animals have been a part of the learning experience of students for many years. Animals can be effective teaching aids with positive benefits of encouraging caring skills and responsibility in students. The human/animal bond is therapeutic and well established. Service animals are used to assist some individuals with disabilities. The use of service animals is protected by law and may not be regulated by local education agencies.

There is, however, the potential for animals to have some adverse affects on students in the classroom such as: allergic reactions, scratches and/or bites, asthmatic reactions, infections and infestations.

Requests to include animals in the instructional program of the classroom or school will be approved by the principal in conjunction with the classroom teacher and the school nurse. The principal, classroom teacher and school nurse shall review the possibility of student allergies, animal vaccination, and infection or infestation risks before giving permission for an animal to be in the school.

If the instructional program involving the animal is ongoing and the animal will remain at school when school is not in session, appropriate arrangements for the animal's care must be made.

Animals may not be transported in a school vehicle.

Animals that are part of the instructional program will be under the control of their adult-owner, the teacher or designated students at all times.

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

### **Management Resources:**

*Policy News*, February 2002 *Animals as Part of the Instructional Program*

### **Cross References:**

2030 - Service Animals in Schools

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