LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: June 26, 2025

REVISED:

718. SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities are permitted to participate in and benefit from school programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the school does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

Definition

Service animal means any dog individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.[1]

The work or tasks performed by a **service animal** shall be directly related to the individual'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 nonviolent 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.[1]

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.[1]

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee shall permit individuals with disabilities to use service animals in school buildings; on school property; and on vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school, in accordance with this policy and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.[3][4][5][6]

Guidelines

Admission of Service Animals to Schools

A student or an employee with a disability may submit a request to bring a service animal to the school for educational or employment purposes. A student or employee seeking to bring a service animal to the school must comply with the requirements as set forth in this policy and any administrative regulations governing this issue.

Parents/Guardians of students with disabilities may submit a request to the building

administrator for their student to bring a service animal to the school. The building administrator shall forward the request to the appropriate Section 504 or IEP team. The team shall gather the necessary information and evaluate the request to bring a service animal to the school. **The student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement shall be updated to reflect the use of the service animal.** Any service animal accompanying a student with a disability to the school or school activities shall be handled and cared for in a manner detailed in the student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. **The team shall develop appropriate plans for integrating the service animal into the educational environment.**[7][8]

Before **approving a request for** a service animal, the school **may only ask**:[6]

1. **If the** service animal **is required due to a disability**.[2]
2. **What work or tasks** the service animal is trained to perform.[2]

The school may not:

1. **Request documentation of the need for a service animal.**
2. **Request documentation regarding training of the service animal.**
3. **Request a demonstration of the animal's abilities.**
4. **Inquire about the nature of the individual's disability.**

Admission of Service Animals to Public Events

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals while on the school's property for events that are open to the general public. This right of access does not extend to the schools generally or to other activities that are not open to the general public.[2][3][9]

School administrators may inquire of the owner or handler of **a service** animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and the specific **work or** tasks that the animal has been trained to perform, but shall not ask questions about an individual's disability.[2]

Surcharges

The school shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if individuals accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to individuals without pets. If the school normally charges individuals for the damage they cause, an individual with a disability may be charged for damage caused by their service animal.[2]

	The school shall not require an owner or handler of a service animal to pay an extra charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged**, such as a football game or school play**.[2]
Delegation of Responsibility	The Administrative Director or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative regulations to implement Joint Operating Committee policy and accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal in the school's buildings and on the school's property and vehicles. The designated administrator shall ensure that all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an individual in the school's buildings or on the school's property or vehicles are informed of the Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations governing this issue. Involved individuals can include administrators, appropriate employees, **the** student and **their** parent/guardian. The owner or handler of a service animal shall be solely responsible for: 1. Supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, clean up and stain removal.[2] 2. Control of the animal at all times through the use of a harness, leash, tether or by other effective means. 3. Damages to the school's buildings, property and vehicles caused by the animal. 4. Injuries to students, employees, volunteers and visitors caused by the animal. The building administrator shall receive and forward to the Supervisor of Special Education each completed request by an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal. The Administrative Director or designee shall respond to the request. The school administrators may exclude a service animal from school buildings, property and vehicles under the following circumstances: 1. Presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. 2. Owner or handler is unable to control the animal. 3. Animal is not housebroken. 4. Presence of the animal would require a fundamental alteration to the program. Any individual with a service animal who is aggrieved by a decision to exclude, limit or remove a service animal may appeal that decision in accordance with applicable Joint Operating Committee policy. The appeal must be in writing and

	provide detailed information regarding the basis of the appeal.[7][10][11] **PSBA Revision 4/25 © 2025 PSBA** Legal References 1. 28 CFR 35.104 2. 28 CFR 35.136 3. 43 P.S. 953 4. 29 U.S.C. 794 5. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq 6. 28 CFR 35.130 7. Pol. 103.1 8. Pol. 113 9. Pol. 904 10. Pol. 104 11. Pol. 906 28 CFR Part 35 29 CFR Part 1630 45 CFR Part 80 App B Pol. 103 Pol. 707