

SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY - STUDENT

The Indian River School District is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects our students' health and well-being. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of service animals, by students in the Indian River School District, including school buildings, vehicles and other property. The Indian River School District's Board of Education members, teachers, and administrators believe that a process and application needs to be in place for the approval of a service animal. The Indian River School District will follow established regulations and students will submit an application with required documents for approval. Those documents will be submitted and provided approval from the appropriate director. There can be a denial if proper documents and certifications are not up to date or submitted.

Appeals must be submitted to the office of the Superintendent or their designee.

Definitions

The following words and terms shall have the following meaning:

“Handler” The person in control of the service animal to include care, supervision and handling of the service animal.

“Service Animal” Service animals are defined by the IDEA/ADA as any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability (e.g., navigation, alerting physical support and assistance, preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors).

Work or tasks for the purposes of this definition do not include the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, therapy, companionship, or crime deterrence.