Animals at School

Adopted: 02/07/2012 | **Last Revised:** 02/03/2026 | **Last Reviewed**: 02/03/2026

Use of Animals for Instructional Purposes

Before any student or employee brings an animal to school for an instructional purpose, they shall receive written permission from the principal or designee. The principal or designee shall give such permission only after they have provided written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class, asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be aggravated by the animal's presence. When a parent/guardian has provided notification that their child has an allergy, asthma, or other health condition that may be aggravated by the animal, the principal shall take appropriate measures to protect the student from exposure to the animal.

All animals brought to school must be in good physical condition and must be appropriately immunized. The teacher shall ensure that the species of animal is appropriate for the instructional purpose and age and maturity of the students.

All animals brought to school shall be adequately fed, effectively controlled, humanely treated, and properly housed in cages or containers suitable for the species. The teacher shall ensure that cages and containers are cleaned regularly and that waste materials are removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The teacher shall ensure that students receive instructions regarding the proper handling of and personal hygiene around animals.

Except for service animals, as defined below, all animals are prohibited on school transportation services.

Use of Service Animals by Individuals with Disabilities

For an individual with a disability, service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks related to the individual's disability and for the student's benefit. For example, for an individual who is blind or has low vision, a service animal would mean a dog that helps them with vision, navigation, and other tasks; for an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, a service animal would mean a dog that alerts them to the presence of people or sounds; and for an individual with psychiatric or neurological disabilities, a service animal would mean a dog that assists them by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied on school premises and on school transportation by service animals, including specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs.

The Superintendent or designee may ask any individual with a disability to remove their service animal from school premises or transportation:

1. If the animal is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it; or

2. If the animal is not housebroken; or

3. If the service animal poses a threat to the health and safety of another individual with a known medical condition.

When an individual's service animal is excluded, the individual shall be given an opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal present.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATION
13 CCR 1216 Transportation of property
CIVIL CODE
54.1 Access to public places
54.2 Guide, signal, or service dogs; right to accompany
EDUCATION CODE
233.5 Teaching of principles
39839 Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs
51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety
51540 Humane treatment of animals
GOVERNMENT CODE
810-996.6 Government Claims Act
815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity
835 Conditions of liability
VEHICAL CODE
21113 Public grounds
FEDERAL
UNITED STATES CODES
20 USC 1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
28 CFR 35.104 Definitions, auxiliary aids and services
28 CFR 35.136 Service animals
UNITED STATES CODE
29 USC 794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Section 504
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES
COURT DECISION
Sullivan v. Vallejo City USD (1990) 731 F.Supp. 947
CSBA PUBLICATION
Indoor Air Quality: Governing Board Actions for Creating Healthy School Environments, Policy Brief, July 2008
Asthma Management in the Schools, Policy Brief, March 2008
FEDERAL REGISTER
Rules and Regulations, September 15, 2010, Vol. 75, Number 178, pages 56164-56236
WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/#
Humane Society of the United States http://www.hsus.org/
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals http://www.aspca.org/
CSBA http://www.csba.org/
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights http://www2.ed.gov/ocr

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Rule Adopted: 02/07/2012
Revised: 02/03/2026