



Title: **Service Animals in Schools**

Code: 718

Book: Policy Manual

Section: 700 Property

Purpose

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

Definition

Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board shall permit individuals with disabilities to use service animals in district buildings; on district property; and on vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district, upon request and submission of required documentation.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Guidelines

An individual with a disability may submit a request to bring a service animal to school for educational or employment purposes. However, there is no automatic right to be accompanied by a service animal in the school setting.

Before a service animal shall be allowed in a district building, or on district property or vehicles, the owner or handler of the animal shall submit to the building principal a written request and the following documentation from a certified professional:

1. Diagnosis of the specific disability.
2. Verification of the need for a service animal.
3. Description of the function(s) the service animal is expected to perform in relation to the individual's disability.
4. Current license.
5. Current veterinary health certificate.
6. Proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal.

Trained guide, hearing and service animals shall be permitted in district buildings and on district property and vehicles for noneducational reasons under the following circumstances:

1. Totally or partially blind individuals may be accompanied by a trained guide dog.
2. Deaf or hearing impaired individuals may be accompanied by a trained hearing dog.
3. Mobility impaired or other disabled individuals may be accompanied by a trained service dog.
4. Individuals conducting training of a guide, hearing or service dog may be accompanied for the purpose of school business by a dog in training, but training shall not normally occur in the classroom during instructional time.

Admission to Public Events

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals while on district 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.

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

The district 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.

Delegation of Responsibility

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. Leashing and properly restraining the animal at all times.
3. Damages to district buildings, property and vehicles caused by the animal.
4. Injuries to students, employees, volunteers and visitors caused by the animal.
5. Annual submission of documentation of vaccinations and immunizations.

The building principal shall receive and forward to the Director of Special Education and Superintendent each completed request by

an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal. The Superintendent shall respond to the request.

District staff shall not ask questions about an individual's disability.

District administrators may exclude a service animal from district 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. Presence of the animal significantly disrupts or interferes with the educational process.
4. Presence of the animal would require a fundamental alteration to the program.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative regulations to implement Board policy and accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal in district buildings and on district property and vehicles.

The designated administrator shall ensure that all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an owner or handler in district buildings or on district property or vehicles are informed of the Board policy and administrative regulations governing this issue. Involved individuals can include administrators, appropriate employees, student and parent/guardian.

Adopted: **January 18, 2011**

Legal References:

- [1. 28 CFR 36.104](#)
 - [2. 29 U.S.C. 794](#)
 - [3. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq](#)
 - [28 CFR Part 35](#)
 - [28 CFR Part 36](#)
 - [29 CFR Part 1630](#)
 - Pol. 103
 - Pol. 103.1
 - Pol. 104
 - Pol. 707
 - Pol. 904
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