

Students	Knox County Board of Education Policy			
	Service Animals	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
			J-570	12/10
			Reviewed:	Revised:
	5/26	10/16		

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2 The Knox County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and complies with all state and
3 federal laws, regulations, and rules regarding the use of service animals by students with disabilities under
4 appropriate circumstances.
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6 A service animal means any dog (or miniature horse as noted below) that is individually trained to do
7 work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory,
8 psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.¹ Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic,
9 trained or untrained, are not service animals.²
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11 KCS may ask if the service animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal
12 has been trained to perform.
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14 Exceptions: KCS may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if:
15 (1) The animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it;
16 or
17 (2) The animal is not housebroken.³
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19 Animal under handler’s control: A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service
20 animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a
21 disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash or other tether would
22 interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service
23 animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective
24 means).⁴
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26 Care or Supervision: KCS is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.⁵
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28 Knox County Schools will make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit
29 the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been trained to do
30 work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
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32 Assessment factors for miniature horses: In determining whether reasonable modifications in policies,
33 practices, or procedures can be made to allow a miniature horse into a specific facility, the Knox County
34 Schools shall consider:
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36 (1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these
37 features;
38 (2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
39 (3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
40 (4) Whether the miniature horse’s presence in a specific facility compromises any safety protocols
41 required for the proper operation of the facility.⁶
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Parents must submit a written request for the use of a service animal to the principal/administrator of the school. The request must be made no less than three weeks prior to the proposed use of the service animal prior to bringing the service animal to school.

Legal References:

1. 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 and 28 C.F.R. § 35.104.
2. 42 U.S.C.A. § 12134, 28 C.F.R. § 35.104, § 35.136 and T.C.A. § 62-7-112.
3. 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 (b).
4. 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 (d).
5. 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 (e).
6. 28 C.F.R. § 35.136 (i).