



Facility Therapy Animal Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the presence and use of a facility therapy animal within the school to support students' social-emotional learning, well-being, and educational engagement.

2. Definition

A facility therapy animal is a dog that is specially trained and temperament-tested to provide therapeutic support in a school setting and is handled by a designated school employee: Amanda Taylor. The therapy animal is not a service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

3. Approval and Oversight

- The therapy animal must be approved by school administration prior to being on campus.
- The Director of Programming, Amanda Taylor, is responsible for oversight of the animal.
- The therapy animal program may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

4. Handler Responsibilities

- The therapy animal must be under the direct control of the designated handler – Amanda Taylor – at all times.
- The handler is responsible for the animal's behavior, supervision, care, and removal from campus if needed.
- The handler has received training in animal behavior, student safety, and school procedures.

5. Animal Requirements

The facility therapy animal must:

- Be certified or registered through a recognized therapy animal organization.
- Have up-to-date vaccinations, licensing, and annual veterinary health clearance.
- Be groomed regularly and maintain good hygiene.
- Demonstrate a calm, predictable temperament appropriate for interactions with children.
- Be at least one year of age.

6. Student Interaction Guidelines

- Student interaction with the therapy animal is voluntary.
- Written parent/guardian consent is required before a student may interact with the animal.
- Students must be taught appropriate behavior around the animal, including gentle touch, respect for boundaries, and respect for handler instructions.
- The animal may be restricted from certain areas or activities.

7. Health, Allergies, and Phobias

- The school will make reasonable accommodations for students or staff with allergies or asthma.
- No student will be required to interact with the therapy animal.
- Therapy animal access may be limited to specific rooms or schedules as needed.

8. Areas of Access

The therapy animal may be permitted in classrooms, offices, and common areas as approved by administration. The animal is prohibited from:

- Food preparation and dining areas
- Restrooms
- Any area where the animal's presence would pose a safety or health risk

9. Safety and Behavior Standards

- The therapy animal must not exhibit aggressive, disruptive, or unsafe behavior.
- Any incidents regarding behavior must be reported immediately to administration.

10. Hygiene and Clean-Up

- Handwashing or sanitizing is encouraged before and after interaction with the animal.
- The handler is responsible for immediate clean-up of any animal waste or messes using appropriate supplies.

11. Liability and Insurance

- The therapy animal must be covered under appropriate liability insurance, either through the handler, therapy organization, or school coverage.
- The school is not responsible for the personal care or veterinary expenses of the animal.

12. Review and Renewal

This policy will be reviewed annually. Continued participation of the therapy animal is contingent upon compliance with this policy and ongoing administrative approval.