Series 6000 – Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

F. Instructional Resources

(3) <u>Instructional Resources for Students</u>

(d) <u>Live Animals in the Classroom</u>

The Suffield Board of Education ("Board") shall comply with all laws and regulations regarding the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities, as those terms are defined by federal and state laws and regulations. The Board permits the use of therapy dogs in the schools only in accordance with the administrative regulations prescribed by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations to address the presence and use of service animals and therapy dogs in the schools.

In all other circumstances, no student shall bring any live animal, whether pet or wild, to any classroom without prior consent of the teacher and the principal, in order to protect both the animal and individuals within the school community.

Teachers may bring and maintain in the school environment goldfish or tropical fish in suitable bowls or tanks, but turtles, birds, snakes, or other animals that might present a health hazard shall not be allowed without the approval of the principal, and then only for class observation and study for a limited period of time.

Science teachers and Vocational Agriculture Teachers may have animals in appropriate facilities in or adjacent to laboratories for the purpose of class study and experimentation, provided that appropriate state and federal guidelines and/or requirements are followed relative to health and safety of the animals and the school community.

Legal References: State Law:
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-339b
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-44
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46a-64

Federal law:
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et. seq.*
28 C.F.R. § 35.104
28 C.F.R. § 35.136
28 C.F.R. § 36.302(c)

CONSENT AGENDA

Policy Adopted: July 13, 2026

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut