

1 **3046**
2 **Service Animals**

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4 Animals are not allowed in school district buildings or on school district
5 property without the written permission of the superintendent except as
6 provided in this policy.

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8 The school district does not permit discrimination against individuals with
9 disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal.
10 An individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her
11 service animal on school property when required by law, subject to the
12 conditions of this policy.

13
14 **Service Animal.** A "service animal" is a dog that has been individually
15 trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a
16 disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other
17 mental disability. Work or tasks **do not** include the crime deterrent effects
18 of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being,
19 comfort, or companionship. The work or tasks performed by a service
20 animal must be directly related to the handler's disability or necessary to
21 mitigate a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic,
22 trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this
23 definition. **See also**, Miniature Horses below.

24
25 **School District Inquiries.** School officials **may** ask the owner or handler
26 of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what
27 work or task the animal has been trained to do **unless** the answers to these
28 inquiries are readily apparent. School officials **may not** ask about the
29 nature or extent of a person's disability and may not require documentary
30 proof of certification or licensing as a service animal.

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32 **Procedural Requirements.** The following requirements must be satisfied
33 **before** a service animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school
34 grounds:

35
36 **Request.** A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her service
37 animal must submit a written request form to a principal or
38 superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. These
39 requests must be renewed each school year or whenever a different
40 service animal will be used.

41
42 **Health and Vaccination.** The service animal must be in good health
43 and immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. The
44 owner or handler of the animal must submit proof of current licensure

45 from the local licensing authority and proof of the service animal's
46 current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

47
48 Service animals will not be allowed in school buildings or other school
49 property until the school has approved the request.

50
51 **Control.** A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all
52 times. The service animal must have a harness, backpack, vest identifying
53 the dog as a trained service dog, leash, or other tether. If the handler is
54 unable to use a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether, because of a
55 disability or the use of a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether
56 would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work
57 or tasks, the use of these items is not required. However, the service
58 animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

59
60 **Exclusion or Removal from School.** A service animal may be excluded
61 from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

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63 (1) A handler does not have control of the service animal;
64 (2) The service animal is not housebroken;
65 (3) The service animal presents a direct and immediate threat to
66 others in the school; or
67 (4) The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of the
68 service, program, or activity.

69
70 The handler or the student's parent or guardian shall be required to remove
71 the service animal from school premises immediately upon such a
72 determination. If the service animal is removed, the individual with a
73 disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service,
74 program, or activity without the service animal.

75
76 **Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a
77 classroom or mode of transportation in which a service animal is permitted
78 suffers an allergic reaction to the service animal, the person having custody
79 and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different
80 location designated by an administrator. The school will arrange a meeting
81 between school personnel, the individual with the disability, and the parents
82 or guardian(s) of the person with the disability if that person is a student to
83 develop an alternate plan.

84
85 **Supervision and Care of Service Animals.** The owner or handler of a
86 service animal is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the
87 animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in
88 a school building or on school property. The student's parent or guardian is

89 responsible for providing for the supervision and the care of the animal in
90 the event that his or her student is not able to do so. The school district is
91 not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a
92 service animal.

93
94 **Extra Charges.** The owner or handler of a service animal will not be
95 required to pay an admission fee or a charge for the animal to attend events
96 for which a fee is charged.

97
98 **Damage to School Property and Injuries.** The owner or handler of a
99 service animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school
100 property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

101
102 **Miniature Horses.** Requests to permit the use of a miniature horse by an
103 individual with a disability will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by
104 considering the following factors:

- 105
- 106 (1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether
107 the facility can accommodate these features;
 - 108 (2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature
109 horse;
 - 110 (3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
 - 111 (4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility
112 compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary
113 for safe operation.

114
115 All additional requirements outlined in this policy, which apply to service
116 animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

117
118 **Service Animal in Training.** This policy shall also be applicable to service
119 animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

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121 **Denial of Access and Grievance.** If a school official denies a request for
122 access of a service animal, the disabled individual or parent or guardian can
123 file a written grievance with the school's Section 504 Coordinator.

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125 Adopted on: July 13, 2017
126 Revised on: December 11, 2018
127 Reviewed on: July 13, 2017; December 11, 2018
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