

USE OF ANIMALS IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS REGULATION

Use of Animals for Educational Purposes

Before a teacher may use an animal as part of the educational program or participate in an activity involving animals (e.g., a field trip) the teacher must submit a request to the building principal in accordance with administrative regulations. The principal shall consider such requests on a case-by-case basis based upon criteria established by the Superintendent.

Use of Service Animals by the Disabled

A qualified individual with a disability may be granted use of a service animal on school property, provided the work or tasks performed by the service animal are directly related to the individual's disability.

The superintendent shall make such determinations on a case-by-case basis based on the following criteria:

Would the presence of the service animal:

1. Impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the District;
2. Require a fundamental alteration to an educational program;
3. Impact legally protectable rights of others.

A disabled student's parent may be given the option of changing the student's educational placement if alternative placement will remedy the infringement of other's rights.

The individual with a disability or designated handler is responsible for the proper care and supervision of the service animal while on school property.

Revocation of Animal Use

The decision to allow any type of animal in school may be revoked if:

1. The animal poses a direct health and/or safety threat to others;
2. The animal is not properly controlled;
3. The animal's presence has fundamentally altered an educational program or activity.

The District may offer alternatives to using a service animal (such as employing an aide), provided the alternatives effectively meeting the student's needs.

Animal Related Injuries

The principal and parent/guardian (if a student is involved) must be notified as soon as possible if an animal bites an individual on school property or during a school-sponsored activity or if an animal-related incident occurs on school property or during a school-sponsored activity that could have an adverse effect on an individual's physical or emotional health. An accident report must be filed with the principal in accordance with district policy and regulations (ACAC).