

IMG

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

The Superintendent may establish procedures for appropriately and humanely bringing live animals into a classroom. This policy pertains to service animals. Regulation IMG-R pertains to ~~both Service and~~ non-service animals.

Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Service animal does not include other species of animals, whether wild or domestic; trained or untrained.

Service animals are permitted on school buses and in other District vehicles and in classrooms to perform the functions for which they are trained. An animal's laminated identification card may be requested for verification.

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Students are permitted to bring service animals to school and to school activities in accordance with federal law.

The principal will check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies among students in the classroom where a service animal is being used. If allergies exist, the district will work with all affected parties to ensure appropriate accommodations are made.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals must be under the control of the handler at all times. In most instances, the handler will be the individual with a disability or a third party who accompanies the individual with a disability. The District may need to provide some assistance to enable a particular student to handle his or her service animal. The service animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered while in public places unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the person's disability prevents use of these devices. In that case, the person must use voice, signal, or other effective means to maintain control of the animal. If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, staff may request that the animal be removed from the premises.

The owner of the service animal is liable for any damage to district or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by the owner's animal while on district property.

The District shall not discriminate against individuals with disabilities who use service animals if the work or tasks performed by the service animal are directly related to the individual's disability.

Adopted: ~~January 14, 2025~~ **October 13, 2026**

LEGAL REF.:

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