

Unity School District
Administrative Rule 383.1
Service Animals
7/9/2019

Service Animals for Students

A service animal is permitted to accompany a student with a disability to whom the animal is assigned anywhere on the school campus where students are permitted to be.

"Service animal" means a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including the work or task of guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with impaired hearing to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

Guide dogs for students who require this type of assistance, as determined by the IEP or Section 504 team, shall be permitted access to all facilities, programs, and events of the District as required to deliver Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and provide equal access. The student must provide evidence of the dog's certification as required by State and Federal law for that purpose. If the dog is still in training, proof of liability insurance policy must be provided, and access by the dog permitted if appropriate under State law. Under State law, no District may refuse entrance to dogs leading individuals who are hearing-impaired, sight-impaired, or mobility-impaired if:

- A. such dog is wearing a harness, leash and special cape identifying the "lead dog" status; and
- B. the person has presented for inspection, credentials issued by a school training dogs for the sight-impaired, hearing-impaired, or mobility-impaired, see Wis. Stats. 106.52(3).

An emotional support or companionship animal is not a service animal and is not allowed.

A service animal is the personal property of the student and/or parents. The Board does not assume responsibility for training, daily care, or healthcare of service animals. The Board does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage arising out of or relating to the presence or use of service animals on District property or at District-sponsored events.

A service animal that meets the definitions set forth in the ADA and this policy shall be under the control of the student with a disability, or a separate handler if the student is unable to control the animal. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the student with a disability is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the student's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means), or under the control of a handler other than the student.

If the student with a disability is unable to control the service animal and another person serves as the animal's handler, that individual shall be treated as a volunteer and, as such, will be subject to the District's Volunteer Policy.

Removing and/or Excluding a Student's Service Animal

If a service animal demonstrates that it is not under the control of the student or its handler, the Principal is responsible for documenting such behavior and for determining if and when the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

Similarly, in instances when the service animal demonstrated that it is not housebroken, the Principal shall document such behavior and determine whether the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

The Principal should notify the District Administrator prior to or as soon thereafter as is practicable when a service animal has been removed and/or excluded, and, immediately subsequent to such notification, document the reasons for the removal and/or exclusion.

The Principal's decision to remove and/or exclude a service animal from school property may be appealed in accordance with the complaint procedure set forth in the Nondiscrimination Policy.

Eligibility of a Student's Service Animal for Transportation

A student with a disability shall be permitted to access School District transportation with his/her service animal. There may also be a need for the service animal's handler, if the handler is someone other than the student, to also access School District transportation.

When a service animal is going to ride on a school bus owned or leased by the District, the student and his/her parents, or eligible student, and the handler, if s/he is someone other than the student, shall at the discretion of the Principal and/or Director of Special Education, an orientation will take place for students and staff who will be riding the bus/vehicle with the service animal regarding the animal's functions and how students should interact with the animal.

The service animal shall board the bus by the steps with the student, not a lift, unless the student uses the lift to enter and exit the bus. The service animal must participate in bus evacuation drills with the student.

While the bus is in motion, the service animal shall remain positioned on the floor, at the student's feet. A determination shall also be made regarding whether the service animal should be secured on the bus with a tether or harness.

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Situations that would cause cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal include:

- A. The student, or handler, is unable to control the service animal's behavior, which poses a threat to the health or safety of others; or
- B. The service animal urinates or defecates in the vehicle.

The student and his/her parents shall be informed of behaviors that could result in cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal, in writing, prior to the first day of transportation.

If it is necessary to suspend transportation privileges for the service animal for any of the above reasons, the decision may be appealed to the Director of Special Education.

Although transportation may be suspended for the service animal, it remains the District's responsibility to transport the student. Furthermore, unless the behavior that resulted in the service animal's removal from the bus is also documented during the school day, the service animal may still accompany the student in school.

Service Animals for Employees

In employment, the Board provides qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation(s). An employee with a disability may request authorization to use a service animal while on duty as such an accommodation. The request will be handled in accordance with the ADA mandated interactive process.

Service Animals for Parents, Vendors, Visitors, and Others

Individuals with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals are permitted access to all areas of the District's facilities where members of the public, as participants in services, programs or activities, as vendors, or as invitees, are permitted to go. Individuals who will access any area of the District's facilities with their service animals should follow the building's standard visitor registration procedures and are encouraged to notify the Principal that their service animal will accompany them during their visit.

An individual with a disability who attends a school event will be permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal in accordance with policy.