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| Book | Rochester Public Schools Policies |
| Section | 600 - EDUCATION PROGRAMS |
| Title | Animals in the Classroom |
| Code | 625 |
| Status | Active |
| Legal | <p>Minn. Stat. 97A.401 Special Permits</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 343.21 Overworking or Mistreating Animals</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 363A.19 Discrimination Against Blind, Deaf, or Other Persons with Physical or Sensory Disabilities Prohibited</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 346.56 Unauthorized Release of Animals</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 346.40 Pet Birds</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 346.41 Rodents</p> <p>Minn. Stat. 346.42 Other Animals</p> |
| Adopted | September 3, 2013 |
| Last Revised | December 7, 2021 |
| Last Reviewed | November 4, 2021 |
| Prior Revised Dates | 12/15/20 |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to allow animals in the classroom while, providing for the health and safety of school staff, students, and animals. The District recognizes that individuals may have cultural or health-related sensitivities to animals.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. This policy does not include service animals.
- B. For purposes of instruction, the teaching staff is encouraged to use alternative methods, and avoid the use of the live animals when possible. Animals should be used in the classroom for the sole

purpose of instruction

- C. Written permission of the building administrator is required before any animal is brought into the school or used for educational purposes with student contact.
- D. Animals may not be transported to and or from school on school buses or via other transportation provided by the school district.
- E. Upon notification of sensitivity by students or staff, the classroom or work area will be kept animal free.
- F. If an administrator feels that the animal in the classroom is not in the best interest of the students and staff, the animal must be removed from the building.
- G. Any teacher with animals in the classroom will communicate and follow the Animals in the Classroom Procedure 625A.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Service animals" are trained and certified animals which support individuals with disabilities or law enforcement personnel.



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