



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
2101 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520) 209-7500 (520) 209-7570 FAX www.cfsd16.org

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 7.1

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024

**NEW BUSINESS ITEM:** Consideration of Revisions to Policy IMG and Regulation IMG-R, *Animals in Schools* (first reading)

**SUBMITTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

**PRESENTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

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The language in policy IMG and Regulation IMG-R, *Animals in Schools*, is being updated and clarified based on the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Policy IMG**

The term service animal was included as an animal that is permitted on school buses.

The definition of service animal is included in the policy to mean 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 mental disability. A service animal does not include other species of animals whether wild, domestic, trained or untrained.

Language was added from the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding the need for the service animal to always be under the control of the handler and provides specific information about who the handler is and assistance that may be needed from district personnel.

Language was also added about the requirements for the service animal to 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 the use of these devices.

If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, staff may request the animal be moved from the premises.

Legal references and a new adoption date were added to the end of the policy.

### **IMG-R**

Language was added to the regulation regarding the documentation that will be provided to the principal prior to the approval of any animal that is brought into the classroom. The documentation includes:

- The vaccination history of the animal, including proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations;
- Proof of current licensure;
- Proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered;
- Proof of treatment of fleas and ticks; and
- Current certificate from a veterinarian that the animal is healthy and disease free.

Information in the guidelines that apply to animals in schools was added. Specifically:

- Animals shall not be transported in other District vehicles without written authorization.
- The classroom shall be kept clean and free of any animal waste.
- The staff member must adhere to local, state, and federal laws and to District policies and regulations regarding such animals.
- The owner of the 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.

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION: I move that the governing board approve revisions to Policy IMG and Regulation IMG-R, *Animals in Schools*, as presented.**