

*Adopted: 1/1986*

*Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 799*

*Reviewed: 4/14/2022 PRC May 2025*

*Revised: 4/28/2022*

*Rescinds: ING*

## **799 ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for when animals are allowed on school district property, including buildings and classrooms.

### **II. VISITING ANIMALS**

- A. The site administrator has the sole discretion to allow or not allow pets or animals on school property. This provision does not apply to service animals or companion animals for persons with disabilities.
- B. When possible, it is preferable for students to go outside and visit the animal rather than have the animal visit the students in the building.
- C. If the site administrator grants permission for a visiting animal to be present on school property, the following minimal conditions apply:
  - 1. The animal must be controlled and humanely cared for by the owner,
  - 2. The animal must be vaccinated as required by local law,
  - 3. The animal must be removed by the owner at the request of the school administrator regardless of the reason if any;
  - 4. The owner will be liable for property damage or injury.

### **III. CLASSROOM ANIMALS**

- A. The site administrator has the sole discretion to allow or not allow animals (including birds, reptiles and insects) in classrooms.
- B. Animals must serve an educational purpose.
- C. Animals in the classroom are the responsibility of the teacher who must ensure safe handling or presentation of animals, adherence to proper hand washing and other safety practices, vaccination as required by law and clean-up of animal cages, food and waste.

#### IV. ANIMAL BITES

If an animal bite or other injury to persons occurs, administer first aid as necessary and notify the health office and parent or guardian.

**Legal References:** 20 U.S.C. § 1401 *et seq.* (The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 256C.02 (Persons with Disabilities)  
Minn. Stat. § 363A.19 (Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities Prohibited)  
48 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (The Americans with Disabilities Act)  
28 C.F.R. 36.302(c)(1) (Service Animals)

**Cross References:** Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 535 (Service Animals in Schools)  
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 608 (Instructional Service – Special Education)