

Animals in District Facilities And Vehicles

As required by law and in accordance with this policy, District students, employees and other persons with disabilities have the right to be accompanied in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by a "service animal." Also as required by law and in accordance with this policy, District students, employees and other persons who are qualified trainers of service animals have the right to be accompanied in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by a service animal they are in the process of training.

No person shall bring, possess, carry, keep, maintain or exhibit an Animal on School Premises except for educational or instructional purposes as part of the curriculum or an educational enrichment program relating to a specific course of study.

As provided by law, District official shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability if that person is using or wishes to use a service animal at one or more District schools, other facilities or vehicles. District officials may, however, make inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal: (a) Is the animal required because of a disability? (b) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

District students and employees who wish to be accompanied on an ongoing basis in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by a service animal or service animal in training shall provide at least ten (10) working days' advance written notice to the appropriate District Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer.

All service animals and service animals in training in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles must have required vaccinations current. All service animals and service animals in training must at all times be under the control of their handlers when in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles. Such control shall be maintained by use of a harness, leash or other tether, unless either the handler 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 animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the animal must be otherwise under the handler's control. When in District vehicles, service animals and service animals in training must also be kept near the individual they are accompanying and out of the aisle, and must not disturb the other passengers.

"Service Animal" means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with the disability or for a law enforcement agency. Dogs that merely provide support, well-being, comfort or companionship are not Service Animals for purposes of this regulation.

Service animals and service animals in training may be excluded from District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles (a) to the extent the animals presence would fundamentally alter the nature of a District service, program or activity; (b) if the animal poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision

of auxiliary aids or services; (c) if the animal is not kept under the handler's control; or (d) if the animal is not housebroken.

The owner of a service animal or service animal in training and the person having control or custody of the service animal or service animal in training are liable for any damage to persons, premises, facilities, or vehicles caused by the service animal or service animal in training. The District shall not be responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal or service animal in training, including but not limited to walking the animal, responding to the animal's need to relieve itself or providing any other care or assistance to the animal. Issues related to care or supervision of service animals and service animals in training shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The District's Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer(s) shall be responsible for: (a) reasonable accommodation determinations regarding the ability of persons with disabilities to access District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles accompanied by service animals individually trained for them; (b) determining whether a service animal or service animal in training poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services; (c) determining what modification of policies, practices or procedures, or provision of auxiliary aids or services, will eliminate significant risks to the health or safety of others posed by a service animal or service animal in training; and (d) addressing issues related to the care or supervision of service animals and service animals in training.

Service Animals utilized by and in law enforcement agencies to perform or assist in law enforcement duties or functions shall be allowed upon prior notice to and approval of the Principal or building administrator.

Animals at School for Educational Purposes

Animals may be brought to school and/or housed in a classroom only after receiving permission from the building principal, only for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and only for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal. Under no circumstances may poisonous animals be brought to school.

The person bringing an Animal on School Premises assumes any and all risks of loss or harm related to the Animal. The District shall not be liable for any injury, loss or damages sustained as a result of the Animal's death, illness or injury while on School Premises due to any cause or reason whatsoever.

No animal may be housed in a classroom unless the teacher is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of the animal, and with any potential dangers caused by the animal. Any such animal shall be in good physical condition and, where appropriate, vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Special consideration

shall be given to an animal's effect on allergic students and staff before bringing the animal into the classroom.

The teacher shall be responsible for the proper control of animals brought to the school for instruction purposes, as well as for the welfare and safety of all students and staff who may be affected by such animals. No animals shall be allowed to run freely anywhere in the school building, including but not limited to classrooms, food areas or activity areas.

If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher responsible must make arrangements for their appropriate care and safety. All animals shall be maintained at school in a sanitary condition with appropriate food and water and in a manner so as to prevent health hazards or nuisance conditions.

Students shall not be allowed to eat or drink during activities involving animals. Immediately after handling any animal, all students shall be required to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water.

The building principal shall be notified as soon as possible if anyone at school is bitten or scratched by an animal and the skin is broken, or if another incident occurs that could have an adverse effect on the victim's physical or emotional health. The responsible teacher shall complete a written report describing the incident. If the incident involves a student, every reasonable effort must be made to immediately contact the student's parent/guardian.

Except for Service Animals authorized by the District's Transportation Director, animals shall not be transported on school buses except as expressly permitted by law or District policies/regulations.

The use of animal specimens for dissection is permitted as defined in the curriculum. All Animal Specimens must be purchased from a reputable biological dealer. No Animal Specimens may be brought onto School Premises unless preserved in accordance with generally accepted laboratory protocols and approved by the District's Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator.

No District employee shall bring or keep a personal pet in a District school or other District building.

Animals are not permitted in areas where food is prepared or served. Cages and tanks shall not be cleaned in food handling areas.

Adopted: April 5, 2017
Big Sandy School District 100-J, Simla, Colorado