

CHAPTER 3.00 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

3.41

SERVICE ANIMALS

POLICY:

- (1) The purpose of this policy is to implement standards related to service animals as set forth in federal and state law including:
 - (a) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
 - (b) Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;
 - (c) Americans with Disabilities Act;
 - (d) Section 413.08, F.S.
- (2) A service animal is personal property and may not be brought on campus without the knowledge and permission of the school or District administration. A student's need for and use of a service animal must be documented in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
- (3) A *service animal* is any dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The animal must be trained to perform tasks directly related to the person's disability.
 - (a) Other species of animals are not considered to be service animals.
 - (b) Miniature horses may be used as an alternative to dogs, with certain limitations. However, they are not included in the definition of service animal.
 - (c) An animal whose sole function is to provide comfort, therapy, or companionship is not considered a service animal.
 - (d) A service animal is not a pet.
- (4) A *task* is a minor job or piece of work that the animal performs. Tasks include:
 - (a) Guiding a person who is visually impaired or blind;

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- (b) Alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing;
 - (c) Retrieving objects;
 - (d) Assisting with mobility or balance;
 - (e) Pulling a wheelchair;
 - (f) Alerting an individual to the presence of allergens;
 - (g) Helping an individual with a psychiatric or neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors;
 - (h) Reminding an individual with mental illness to take prescribed medications;
 - (i) Calming an individual with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack;
 - (j) Alerting and protecting a person having a seizure; and
 - (k) Doing other work or performing other specific tasks.
- (5) A service animal may not interfere with the educational process of any student or pose a health or safety threat to any student, school personnel or other persons. The service animal must meet health requirements and established standards of behavior.
- (6) The service animal must be under the control of its handler.
- (7) The Superintendent shall develop guidelines for service animals on campus. Guidelines shall include but not be limited to
- (a) The process for requesting approval for the use of a service animal in the school or District setting;
 - (b) Standards of behavior for the service animal;
 - (c) Required accommodation documentation;
 - (d) Required health certification for the animal;

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- (e) Transportation of the service animal;
 - (f) Emergency procedures; and
 - (g) Orientation for school personnel and students.
- (8) The District shall not assume responsibility for training, health care or daily care of any service animal.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41; 1001.42, F.S.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: 413.08, 1001.32, 1001.43, 1006.07, 1006.08, F.S.
28 CFR 35.104, 28 CFR 35.136
28 CFR 36.104, 34 CFR 104

History:

Adopted: January 12, 2016 Revision Date(s): Formerly:
