

SERVICE ANIMALS

3.48+

- I. 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 (IDEA);
 - B. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;
 - C. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
 - D. Section 413.08, F.S.

- II. 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 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.

- III. 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;
 - 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.
- IV. 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. To determine if an animal qualifies as a service animal the District may not ask about the nature or extent of the individual's disability but may ask the following:
- A. If the animal is required because of a disability and
 - B. What work or task the animal is trained to perform.
- V. 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.
- VI. The service animal must be under the control of its handler.
- VII. 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;
 - E. Transportation of the service animal;

- F. Emergency procedures; and
 - G. Orientation for school personnel and students.
- VIII. 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.

LAW(S) 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

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