

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.
 - C. The crime deterrent effect of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for purposes of this policy.
 - 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

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- 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. A service animal may be excluded from school board facilities, vehicles, and functions under the following circumstances:
 - A. The service animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health and safety of another person. Allergies and/or fear of animals are not valid reasons for denying access.
 - B. The service animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it.
 - C. The service animal is not housebroken.
- VIII. 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.
- IX. The District shall not assume responsibility for training, health care or daily care of any service animal.

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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

HISTORY: ADOPTED: 07/19/11
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FORMERLY: NEW

NOTES:
Refer to: **Guidelines for Including Service Animals in Schools and on School Buses**