

**PETS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of preserving the health, safety, and welfare of occupants of school facilities and grounds. Permitting of dogs and other animals in school facilities or on school grounds property is strictly controlled.

**Domestic Pets**

Appropriate signage shall be posted across the District indicating where animals are not allowed, and under what circumstances. The superintendent or designee must grant advance notice and authorization to permit animals (domestic pets) within a school facility. The District administration reserves the right to ask that an animal be removed from District grounds and/or facilities if it becomes a health and safety concern and/or displays disruptive behavior.

In any instance when a domesticated pet is permitted on school grounds or in facilities, it must strictly adhere to the following conditions:

- The pet must be under the control of an adult at all times and wear clearly labeled tags indicating current vaccination and ownership.
- The pet must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet long.
- Pet owners must immediately remove waste and dispose of it in a sealed, non-absorbent, leak-proof container.

Dogs are not allowed in fenced-in athletic areas, such as baseball and soccer fields. Dogs trained and certified to accompany and assist police and other state and federal agencies shall be exempt from the terms of this policy.

**Service Animal**

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, 28 C.F.R. Part 36, the District acknowledges the responsibility to permit a service animal to accompany the individual with a disability anywhere on District property where other individuals in the same category (student, employee, member of the public) are permitted to go.

Unless it is readily apparent what work or tasks the animal is trained to perform, the individual it accompanies may be asked whether it is a service animal and what work or task it performs for the individual. Crime deterrence or the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship is not considered work or tasks performed for the individual sufficient to qualify the animal as a service animal. Documentation regarding the training of a service animal is not required as per the (ADA) American with Disabilities Act.

Before permitting a service animal to accompany an individual, the District shall evaluate whether the respective facility can accommodate the type, size, and weight of the animal.

A service animal must at all times be under the control of the individual it serves, or a trainer or other handler. This control shall involve the use of a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the individual 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 service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks.

A service animal must be housebroken, meaning the service animal only urinates and defecates outside or where designated to do so, in order to accompany the individual within doors; the individual is required when outdoors, to remove waste immediately and dispose of it in a sealed, non-absorbent, leak-proof container.

If a service animal proves not to be housebroken, or is out of control and is not able to be brought back under control, or is ill, the individual accompanying it may be asked to remove the animal.

An individual using a service animal or the parent of such an individual is encouraged to notify the District as soon as possible of the intent to be accompanied by a service animal by completing form 4450F. The District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate individuals with allergies or other significant side effects that may be triggered by the presence of a service animal.

### **Therapy Animal**

The superintendent or designee must grant advance notice and authorization to permit therapy animals within a school facility by school personnel or outside persons. Therapy animals (dogs) are not the same as “emotional support animals” or “service animals”. Animal Assisted Therapy is a goal-driven intervention, which is directed and/or delivered by a health, human, or education service professional and is meant to improve the physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive function of an individual.

A therapy animal, most notably a dog, must have been individually trained, evaluated and registered with his/her handler to provide animal-assisted activities, animal-assisted therapy and animal-assisted interactions within a school or other facility. The handler shall submit proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy animal (dog) is in good health and has been immunized against diseases. Such vaccinations shall be kept current and up-to-date at all times. The handler shall assume full liability and responsibility for the therapy animal’s (dog’s) supervision, care, behavior, and suitability for interacting with students and others in the school while the therapy dog is on school district property.

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**Adoption Date: March 6, 2024**