

SERVICE ANIMALS

The Board recognizes that service animals can be beneficial to children with specific needs as identified by licensed medical professionals. In these cases, the District has an obligation to permit students with disabilities to utilize service animals on school grounds, subject to certain restrictions as outline by federal and/or state law.

The Americans with Disabilities Act defines a service animal as an animal that has been trained to perform work or tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. South Colonie Central School District aligns with ADA regulations I that a service animal must serve in a working capacity and not be requested for emotional support or comfort alone.

Each request for use of a service animal will vary depending upon the child's age the child's ability to care for and control the animal, the temperament and training of the animal, if inclusion of the service animal will fundamentally alter the service, programs or activities offered by the District, and safety concerns for students and staff members.

In order to thoroughly consider a request for use of a service animal, the District requires that the request be made, in writing, no less than twenty-five (25) business days prior to the service animal being brought onto school grounds. The District reserves the right to consult with third party experts.

Reference: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and Title III
28 CFR § 35.136, § 36

Adopted: June 4, 2019

**ADOPTED BY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SERVICE ANIMALS REGULATION

1. Request/Application for Use of a Service Animal

Parents/students requesting the assistance of a service animal will be required to complete and submit Policy Form 4331-E. The District will respond within twenty-five (25) business days of receipt of the request.

2. General Requirements for a Service Animal

- a. The service animal must serve in a working capacity and should be trained to perform work or tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. Some examples may include: Sensory Signal (SSIG) Dog, Seizure Response Dog, Signal (Hearing) Dog, and Guide (Seeing Eye) Dog.
- b. The service animals must have updated shot records as provided by a certified veterinarian.
- c. The service animal must show the capacity to be under control of its handler. This may be accomplished by voice command, signals or other means. The service animal is required to use a harness, leash or other tether at all times.
- d. The service animal must have certifications as provided by the appropriate agencies.
- e. The service animal must be house-broken.

3. Service Animal Handler

In unique situations, an adult handler may be required to accompany the service animal on school property. The District shall not be responsible for the compensation of an adult handler unless required by law or regulation.

4. Care for Service Animal

The District shall coordinate with the student's family and applicable staff members to provide basic care of the service animal during the school day or the service animal's working hours (food, water, walks outside).

5. Safety – Educational Environment

In the event that a service animal is causing unsafe conditions or disrupting the educational environment, the animal shall be immediately removed.

Reference: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and Title III
28 CFR § 35.136, § 36

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REQUEST FOR USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

Complete the information below for the student requesting the support of a service animal.

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

Name of Parent(s): _____

Contact Information of Service Animal's Veterinarian:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Vaccination Records: All core and non-core vaccination records are required and must be attached to this form.

Core Vaccinations

- Canine Parvovirus
- Canine Distemper
- Rabies
- Hepatitis

Non-Core Vaccinations

- Bordetella
- Canine Influenza
- Leptospirosis
- Lyme Vaccine

Description of Service Provided by Service Animal:

Other helpful information regarding this request.

The District will respond within twenty-five (25) business days of receipt of the request.