
Service Animals in Schools

The Board supports the use of “service animals” by students and/or adults with disabilities as required by federal laws and Washington State’s law against discrimination. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses and at school activities.

A “service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person’s sensory, mental or physical disability. An animal whose sole function is as a pet or to provide comfort or emotional support does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA.

The parent/guardian of a student who believes the student needs to bring a service animal to school or an employee who wishes to bring a service animal to school, must submit a written request to the building principal. The building principal, in consultation with the Section 504 coordinator or director of special services, as appropriate, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school. The Superintendent or designee is directed to prepare procedures to implement this policy.

Cross Reference:

Policy 2029 Animals as Part of the Instructional Program
Policy 2161 Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
Policy 2162 Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Policy 3210 Nondiscrimination
Policy 5010 Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action

Legal References:

American Disabilities Act (ADA), Revised Title II Regulations, §35 Service animals
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

RCW 28A.642	Discrimination Prohibition
RCW 49.60.040	Definitions
WAC 162-26	Public Accommodations, Disability Discrimination
WAC 392-145-021(3)	General Operating Requirements
WAC 92-172A-01035	Child with a Disability or Student Eligible for Special Education
WAC 392-172A-01155 (3)	Related Services
WAC 392-190	Equal Educational Opportunity – Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited

Adopted: 12/12/2012
Amended: 10/14/2015
Superintendent: Dr. Shelley K. Redinger