



ADG - ANIMALS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES AND VEHICLES

SERVICE ANIMALS & ASSISTANCE DOGS

As required by law and in accordance with this policy, District students, employees and other persons with disabilities have the right to be accompanied in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by a “service animal” or “assistance dog.” Also as required by law and in accordance with this policy, District students, employees and other persons who are qualified trainers of assistance dogs have the right to be accompanied in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by an assistance dog they are in the process of training.

As used in this policy, the term “service animal” means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks required for the benefit of a person with a disability that are directly related to that person’s disability, as provided by law. Neither the crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence nor the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition. If reasonable modifications in District policies, practices or procedures can be made to permit their use, miniature horses may also serve as service animals under this policy, as provided by law. As used in this policy, the term “assistance dog” means a dog that has been or is being specially trained as a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog to aid a particular person with a disability, as provided by law.

As provided by law, District officials shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability if that person is using or wishes to use a service animal at one or more District schools, other facilities or vehicles. District officials may, however, make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal: (a) Is the animal required because of a disability? (b) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

District students and employees who wish to be accompanied on an ongoing basis in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles by a service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training shall provide at least ten (10) working days’ advance written notice to the appropriate District Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer.

All service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles must (a) have all required vaccinations current, (b) be treated for and kept free of fleas and ticks, and (c) be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander. All service dogs, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training in District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles must be spayed or neutered.

All service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training must at all times be under the control of their handlers when in District schools, other facilities and/or

vehicles. Such control shall be maintained by use of a harness, leash or other tether, unless either the handler 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 animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the animal must be otherwise under the handler's control. When on District vehicles, service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training must also be kept near the individual they are accompanying and out of the aisle, and must not disturb the other passengers.

Service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training may be excluded from District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles (a) to the extent the animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of a District service, program or activity; (b) if the animal poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services; (c) if the animal is not kept under the handler's control; or (d) if the animal is not housebroken.

The owner of a service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training and the person having control or custody of the service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training, are liable for any damage to persons, premises, facilities, or vehicles caused by the service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training.

The District shall not be responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training, including but not limited to walking the animal, responding to the animal's need to relieve itself or providing any other care or assistance to the animal. Issues related to the care or supervision of service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The District's Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer(s) shall be responsible for: (a) reasonable accommodation determinations regarding the ability of persons with disabilities to access District schools, other facilities and/or vehicles accompanied by service animals or assistance dogs specially trained for them; (b) determining whether a service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training poses a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services; (c) determining what modification of policies, practices or procedures, or provision of auxiliary aids or services, will eliminate significant risks to the health or safety of others posed by a service animal, assistance dog or assistance dog in training; and (d) addressing issues related to the care or supervision of service animals, assistance dogs and assistance dogs in training.

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Animals may be brought to school and/or housed in a classroom only after receiving permission from the building principal, only for a specific and appropriate educational purpose and only for the amount of time necessary to achieve the educational goal. Under no circumstances may poisonous animals be brought to school.

No animal may be housed in a classroom unless the teacher is familiar with the appropriate care, feeding and handling of the animal, and with any potential dangers caused by the animal. Any such animal shall be in good physical condition and, where appropriate, vaccinated against transmittable diseases. Special consideration shall be given to an animal's effect on allergic students and staff before bringing the animal into the classroom.

The teacher shall be responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes, as well as for the welfare and safety of all students and staff who may be affected by such animals. No animals shall be allowed to run freely anywhere in the school building, including but not limited to classrooms, food areas or activity areas.

If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher responsible must make arrangements for their appropriate care and safety. All animals shall be maintained at school in a sanitary condition with appropriate food and water and in a manner so as to prevent health hazards or nuisance conditions.

Students shall not be allowed to eat or drink during any activities involving animals. Immediately after handling any animal, all students shall be required to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water with adult supervision.

The building principal shall be notified as soon as possible if anyone at school is bitten or scratched by an animal, or if another incident occurs that could have an adverse effect on the victim's physical or emotional health. The responsible teacher shall complete a written report describing the incident. If the incident involves a student, every reasonable effort must be made to immediately contact the student's parent/guardian.

Animals shall not be transported on school buses except as expressly permitted by law or District policies/regulations.

Adopted by Superintendent: February 12, 2007

Revised by Superintendent: February 14, 2011

LEGAL REFS:

28 C.F.R. 35.104, 35.136 & 35.139

C.R.S. 24-34-803 & -804

CROSS REFS:

EEAEC, Student Conduct on School Buses

EEAEC-R, Student Conduct on School Buses