

Service Animals in Schools

The Index Board of Directors acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a "service animal" 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.

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 will develop procedures to implement the policy.

Cross References:

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

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 392-172A-01035 Child with a disability or student eligible for special education
WAC 392-172A-01155 (3) Related services
WAC 392-190 Equal education opportunity - Unlawful discrimination prohibited

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