

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION 10000

10900 Student Information and Miscellaneous 10950 Use of Service Animals

In accordance with this Policy, the District shall permit students and other individual with disabilities to use service animals in District buildings; on District property; and on vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the District, upon request and submission of required documentation. "Service animal" as used herein shall mean any ~~guide dog, signal dog, or other animal~~ individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

Miniature horses also may be utilized as service animals, as determined on a case-by-case basis, if all of the following apply:

- 1. The miniature horse is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability;**
- 2. The facility can accommodate the type, size and weight of the miniature horse;**
- 3. The owner and/or handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;**
- 4. The presence of the miniature horse does not compromise the safe operation of the facility; and**
- 5. The miniature horse is housebroken.**

Use of Service Animal for Educational or Employment Purposes

An individual with a disability must submit a request to bring a service animal to school for educational or employment purposes. However, there is no automatic right to be accompanied by a service animal in the school setting. **A student or employee seeking to bring a service animal to school must comply with the requirements as set forth in this policy and any administrative regulations governing this issue.**

Before a service animal shall be allowed in a District building, or on District property or vehicles, the owner or handler of the animal shall submit to the building principal a written request and the following documentation from a certified professional:

- ~~1. Diagnosis of the specific disability.~~
2. Verification of the need for a service animal.

1 3. Description of the function(s) the service animal is expected to perform in relation to
2 the individual's disability.

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4 4. Current license.

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6 5. Current veterinary health certificate.

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8 6. Proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal.
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10 Use of Service Animal for Non-Educational and Non- Employment Purposes and for Public 11 Events

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13 Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals while on District
14 property for non-educational and non-employment purposes (e.g. while visiting a school) and
15 for events that are open to the general public. In these instances, which are more likely to be
16 temporary in nature, a written request (as outlined above) shall not be required. However,
17 District personnel may inquire of the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is a
18 trained service animal and the specific tasks that the animal has been trained to perform.
19 District personnel shall not ask questions about an individual's disability, and the District
20 shall not require an owner or handler of a service animal to pay an extra charge for the
21 animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.
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23 Responsibilities of Owner or Handler of Service Animal

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25 The owner or handler of a service animal shall be solely responsible for:

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27 1. Supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, clean up and
28 stain removal.

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30 2. Leashing and properly restraining the animal at all times.

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32 3. Damages to District buildings, property and vehicles caused by the animal.

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34 4. Injuries to students, employees, volunteers and visitors caused by the animal.

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36 5. Submission of appropriate documentation to the District in accordance with this Policy
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38 Procedure for Service Animal Written Requests

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40 When a written request is required, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall receive each
41 completed written request by an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service
42 animal and respond to the request. With the exception of requiring documentation from a
43 certified professional as indicated above, the District personnel shall not ask questions about
44 an individual's disability.
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46 Exclusion of Service Animals

1 The District may exclude a service animal from District buildings, property and vehicles
2 under the following circumstances:

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- 4 1. Presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.
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 - 6 2. Owner or handler is unable to control the animal.
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 - 8 3. Presence of the animal significantly disrupts or interferes with the educational process.
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 - 10 4. Presence of the animal would require a fundamental alteration to the program.
- 11

12 Implementation

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14 The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop a model written request form to be used
15 in those instances when an employee or student desires to bring a service animal to school
16 for educational or employment purposes. Additionally, the Superintendent or his/her
17 designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this Policy and to ensure that
18 all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an
19 owner or handler in District buildings or on District property or vehicles are informed of this
20 Policy and the administrative regulations governing this issue.

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22 Adoption Date - November 8, 2010

23 Revised -

24 Practice -

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26 Legal Reference - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794

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28 Americans with Disabilities Act – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et

29 seq.

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31 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability, Title 28,

32 Code of Federal Regulations – 28 CFR Part 35, Part 36

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34 Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

35 Regulations, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations – 29

36 CFR Part 1630

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38 Pennsylvania Human Relations Act – 43 P.S. Sec 953

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