

ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PREMISES

For the purposes of this policy, “District premises” refers to school buildings, vehicles, and all other District property. The District shall comply with all state and federal laws, regulations, and rules regarding the use and presence of animals.

The District is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors. Some animals present issues such as allergic reactions, cleanliness, and unpredictable behavior. Therefore, no unauthorized animals are allowed on District premises. The building administrator retains discretion to exclude or remove an animal from District premises.

In order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, and community members, the following rules apply to District premises.

- All animals on District premises must be under appropriate control at all times.
- Unauthorized animals are not allowed on District premises events at any time, even if leashed.
- Any persons found with an unauthorized animal will be asked to remove it from the premises.
- A person bringing an animal onto District premises is responsible for all damage done to the premises by the animal.
- A person bringing an animal onto District premises must remove of any waste left by the animal.

Taking into consideration that some animals can cause or intensify allergic reactions or other health concerns and/or cause damage and create a hazard if they escape from confinement, a Building Administrator may permit animals to be present in classrooms to support curriculum-related projects and activities only under the following conditions:

- The staff member seeking approval to have an animal in their classroom will provide current health information which indicates the animal meets state and county requirements.
- The staff member seeking approval must identify and exercise precautions deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.
- The staff member seeking approval must ensure that the animal is treated humanely, ensuring it is in a healthy condition, and that appropriate confinement is properly cleaned and maintained while keeping surrounding areas clean and sanitary.
- The staff member seeking approval takes all responsibility for the animal during any and all breaks from school.
- All animals shall be removed from the campus during summer break. Animals may remain during Winter and/or Spring breaks as long as appropriate arrangements for care have been made in advance by the staff member and approved by the Building Administrator.

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