

ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS

Recognizing there are many tools that can be used to provide a variety of productive learning experiences for students, the Board supports the concept of using animals as an educational tool.

There are a variety of ways animals can be used in schools including:

1. scientific instruction
2. classroom pets
3. school mascots
4. search dogs
5. assistive support animals

Prior to any use of animals in the schools, the administration should contact appropriate organizations or authorities regarding resource materials and suggested learning activities that may be available to help students increase their understanding of the animal world.

If it is permissible for the class to have one or more animals as classroom pets it would be under the following conditions:

1. no one is allergic to the animal;
2. proper examinations and immunizations have been given by a veterinarian;
3. arrangements have been made for housing the animal safely, comfortably, cleanly and in a manner that does not disrupt the classroom environment;
4. arrangements have been made for the proper care of the animal when school is not in session and
5. rules have been established for the handling and treatment of the animal.

All animal use in school buildings is consistent with health and safety policies established by the District. The administration must approve and staff must be responsible for developing regulations for the care and control of these animals. The owner of an assistive support animal is responsible for the care and control of their animal.

[Adoption date: January 28, 2008]

[Re-adoption date: July 7, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: May 11, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 USC 794
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.
28 CFR 35.136(d)
ORC Chapter 3323
Chapter 4112

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
EBC, Emergency/Safety Plan
JFG, Interrogations and Searches