

Guide Dogs and Service Dogs Approved Use

The Board believes guide dogs and service dogs (assistance dogs) that are specially trained to assist students who have a physical or development disabilities will be allowed in classrooms, in schools, on school property and on school district buses when the terms and conditions contained in the supporting Board's Administrative Procedure are met. It is further understood and agreed the use of these specifically trained dogs will be allowed when they afford students an equal opportunity to access services, programs and/or activities.

The Board also recognizes the use of guide dogs and service dogs is an approved aid, support, and intervention for students with special needs.

Definitions

"Guide Dogs and Service Dogs" globally refers to a specifically trained dog used to undertake more than one task to mitigate a student's disabilities, and has obtained its certification under the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act and trained at an accredited Assistance Dogs International (ADI), International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) or a Ministry of Justice approved school of training.

The term "Guide Dogs and Service Dogs" may also include the following areas of specific support:

- 1) "Autism Support Dogs" which are dogs trained as assistants for persons with autism and which have the qualifications prescribed by Assistance Dogs International.
- 2) "Guide Dog" refers to a dog trained as a guide for blind or visually impaired person and which has qualifications as prescribed by the International Guide Dog Federation.
- 3) "Hearing Dogs" which are dogs that alert individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to specific sounds.
- 4) "Seizure Response Dogs" which are dogs trained to provide emergency response for individuals with epilepsy.
- 5) "Service Dogs" which are dogs trained to assist individuals who utilize a wheelchair.
- 6) Medical therapy dogs are only permitted on school property when approved under Policy #37 – Medical Therapy Dogs - unless there are extenuating circumstances discussed with district and school staff and approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

Date of Board Approval: December 15, 2015

Date Amended: