Policy: 2030

Section: 2000 - Instruction

Service Animals in Schools

The University Place School District 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 any dog or miniature horse that is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks,
- Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds,
- · Providing nonviolent protection or rescue work,
- Pulling a wheelchair,
- Assisting an individual during a seizure,
- Alerting an individual to the presence of allergens,
- Retrieving items, such as medicine or the telephone,
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

It is a civil infraction to misrepresent an animal as a service animal. A student's parent/guardian who believes their 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 who will consult with the Executive Director of Special Services., as appropriate, to determine whether to permit the service animal in school.

The principal shall not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, but may make two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal. The principal may ask if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. It is not a requirement for parents/guardians or employees to submit documentation, such as proof that the service animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal, or require that the service animal demonstrate its task. Service animals that create an unsafe environment, unsanitary conditions, or a significant disruption to the school environment will not be allowed until a plan is in place to address such concerns.

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

Adoption Date: 11/4/15 Classification: **Priority** Revised Dates: 4/28/2021