

5514.02 - STUDENT USE OF SERVICE/COMPANION ANIMALS

A service animal is an animal (primarily a dog) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual disability.

All service animals used in District facilities and at school events must be in compliance with legal requirements (e.g. licensed, have required vaccinations) and be maintained under proper control. The work or task that is provided by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. An animal whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support does not qualify as a service animal. Individuals requesting to have a service animal on district property must submit a request in writing to the Department of Teaching and Learning; Student Services, at least two weeks prior to bringing the animal. The written request must include the following information:

1. A statement that the service animal is required due to the individual's disability.
2. An explanation of the work or task the animal will perform.
3. A copy of the animal's certification and vaccinations.
4. A statement that you understand and agree to follow the Wauwatosa School District Policy 5514.02 and accompanying Administrative Guidelines.

The individual to be accompanied by a service animal is responsible for the following:

1. The animal shall be under control of its handler at all times. An animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or tether, or the use of a harness, leash or tether would interfere with the animal's safe, effective performance of work or a task, in which case the animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g. voice, signals, or other means)
2. The animal must have proper Wisconsin Licensure and be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. All vaccinations must be current, verification is required. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag. [Wisconsin Statute 95.12(2)(f)]
3. The care and supervision of the animal is solely the responsibility of the owner/keeper.

4. Animals must be housebroken. Should an accident occur indoors, the owner/keeper of the animal must clean up after the animal. The owner/keeper is also responsible for clean-up outdoors, on school property.
5. Animals must be spayed/neutered.
6. The animal is treated for and kept free from fleas and ticks.
7. The animal is kept cleaned and groomed to reduce shedding and dander.
8. Any liability for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property, is the responsibility of the owner/keeper. The district strongly recommends the individual obtain liability insurance coverage for any harm or injury caused by the animal.
9. The District shall make reasonable accommodations if the presence of an animal results in health concerns for other individuals. These accommodations may include the assignment of the student to a different classroom in the District. Any person dissatisfied with a decision concerning a service animal can appeal the decision to the superintendent.

Animal Removal

An individual with a disability may be asked to remove the animal from the premise if:

1. The Animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it.
2. The animal is not housebroken.
3. The animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

If an animal is excluded, the individual with a disability shall be given the opportunity to participate in the program, service, or activity without having the animal on the premise.

Approved/Adopted: November 24, 2015