

# REDFORD UNION SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

## REDFORD UNION SERVICE ANIMAL & THERAPY DOG POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that there are many occasions when animals are present on District property and many reasons for those animals' presence. Animals are commonly utilized by teachers during classroom presentations and are often housed in classrooms and other locations on campus. Additionally, employees, students, parents, vendors, and other members of the public may be accompanied at school by a service animal and/or therapy dog in accordance with Federal and State law, including the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#) (ADA), as amended, and this policy. This policy applies to all animals on District property, including therapy dogs and/or service animals. For the purpose(s) of this policy, "animal" shall include every living vertebrate other than a human.

### Vaccination, Licensing, and/or Veterinary Requirements

Animals housed on or brought onto District property for any school purpose, such as to conduct lawful random searches for illegal substances or to support classroom activities, or brought onto District property on a regular basis for any purpose, including therapy dogs and/or service animals, must meet every veterinary requirement set forth in State law and County regulation/ordinance, including but not limited to rabies vaccination or other inoculations required to be properly licensed.

Handlers must submit documentation of vaccination against the following diseases:

- Rabies Virus;
- Distemper;
- Parvovirus;
- Parainfluenza;
- Canine Adenovirus; and
- Leptospirosis.

Handlers must also submit documentation that the animal is receiving treatment against ectoparasites and intestinal parasites.

The Superintendent will further promulgate administrative regulation(s) consistent with this policy.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION(S)

### *Therapy Dogs*

The District supports the visitation of therapy dogs for general classroom activities by teachers, other qualified school personnel, and/or other qualified volunteers (“owner” or “handler”) for the direct benefit of its students, subject to the conditions of this (these) administrative regulation(s).

A therapy dog is a dog that has been individually trained and registered to work with its handler(s) to provide emotional support, comfort, therapeutic benefits, emotional well-being, or companionship to school district students. Therapy dogs are not "service animals" as that term is used in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and therefore approval of the use of a therapy dog on district property is entirely within the discretion of the administration and not considered a required reasonable accommodation under the ADA. Therapy dogs are the personal property of the Owner and are not owned by the School District.

The District may permit individuals to use therapy dogs on District property (including buildings) upon request, submission of required documentation, and approval by the Superintendent/Designee in accordance with this policy.

### *Requirements:*

The following requirements must be satisfied before a therapy dog will be considered for approval for use on school property:

1. Request. An Owner who wants to bring a therapy dog to school must submit a written request to the building principal and be approved by the Superintendent. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy dog will be used.
2. Training and Registration. The Owner must submit the Therapy Service Registration or its equivalent as determined by the Superintendent. The registration must remain current at all times the dog is present on district property.
3. Health and Vaccination. The therapy dog must be clean, well-groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized against diseases common to dogs, and required by state law. The owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy dog's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

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4. Health and Safety. The therapy dog must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school. This determination shall remain in the sole discretion of the administration. Permission must be granted by parent/guardian prior to the visitation of the therapy dog. If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy dog is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy dog, the owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.
5. Identification. The therapy dog must have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy dog.
6. Authorized Area(s). The owner shall only allow the therapy dog to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are previously authorized in writing by school District administrators.
7. Insurance. The owner must submit a copy of a current insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy dog and owner and any handler while on school property.
8. No Disruption. The therapy dog shall not disrupt the educational process by barking, seeking attention, or any other behavior deemed disruptive by the administration.
9. Supervision and Care. The owner or handler of a therapy dog is solely responsible for all aspects of the animal's supervision and care, including feeding, exercising, and clean up. Therapy dogs must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered.
10. Exclusion or Removal from School. A therapy dog approved for use on District property may be excluded from school property at the sole discretion of the building principal and/or Superintendent. Exclusions can occur for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:
  1. 1) A handler does not have control of the therapy dog; 2) The therapy dog is not housebroken; 3) The therapy dog presents a direct threat to others in the school; 4) The therapy dog's presence interferes with the educational process; 5) The therapy dog interferes with the health, safety and/or welfare of the students, personnel or others.
  2. The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy dog from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

### *Service Animals*

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A service animal is a dog or miniature horse trained to perform work or one or more tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Service animals do not include animals whose presence is for the sole purpose of deterring crime or providing emotional support, well-being, comfort, therapy, or companionship.

The District will make reasonable modifications to its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of miniature horses as service animals. The District will consider the following factors to determine whether a reasonable modification can be made:

- Whether the miniature horse is housebroken;
- Whether the miniature horse is under the owner's control;
- Whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight; and
- Whether the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

***Animal Control Requirements*** All service animals must be properly vaccinated, licensed, and otherwise compliant with all State, County, and/or local animal control or public health requirements.

***Removal or Exclusion*** A building administrator may remove a service animal from District property if: (1) the service animal is not within the control of the handler; (2) the service animal is not housebroken; (3) the service animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; or (4) the presence of the service animal would require a fundamental alteration to the service, program, or activity provided by the District. If the service animal is removed, the individual will be provided the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal and with other accommodations.

The District will not deny access to individuals with service animals on the basis of allergies and fear of dogs (and miniature horses, if applicable). In the event an individual who is allergic to a service animal and an individual who uses a service animal are in the same room or facility, the District will accommodate both, to the extent feasible, by assigning them to different locations within the room or to different rooms within the facility.

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***Permissible Inquiries*** If it is not apparent what work or tasks a service animal is trained to perform, District staff may ask an individual: (1) whether the animal is a service animal required due to a disability; and (2) the specific work or task the service animal has been trained to perform. Personnel is prohibited from: asking questions concerning the individual's disability; requiring medical documentation; requiring a special identification card or clothing or training documentation for the service animal; or asking that the service animal demonstrate its ability to perform any work or task.

***Supervision and Care*** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for all aspects of the animal's supervision and care, including feeding, exercising, and clean up. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless an individual's disability prevents using such devices or the devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of its work or tasks. If so, individuals must maintain control of the service animal through voice, signal, or other effective means.

***Injuries or Damage to District Property*** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for any damage to District property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the service animal.