

SUN AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

ADOPTED: October 21, 2010

REVISED: August 18, 2011

718. SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS	
1. Purpose	The Joint Operating Committee adopts this policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities are permitted to participate in and benefit from school programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the school does not discriminate on the basis of disability.
2. Definition	<p>Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.</p> <p>Miniature horses may be utilized as service animals if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The miniature horse is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. 2. The facility can accommodate the type, size and weight of the miniature horse. 3. The presence of the miniature horse does not compromise the safe operation of the facility.
28 CFR Sec. 35.136	
28 CFR Sec. 35.104	The work or tasks performed by a service animal shall be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, 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 individuals 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.
28 CFR Sec. 35.104	The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.

<p>3. Authority 43 P.S. Sec. 953 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq 28 CFR Sec. 35.130</p>	<p>The Joint Operating Committee shall permit individuals with disabilities to use service animals in school buildings; on school property; and on vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school, in accordance with this policy and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.</p>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Admission Of Service Animals To Schools</u></p> <p>A student or an employee with a disability may submit a request to bring a service animal to the school for educational or employment purposes. However, there is no automatic right to be accompanied by a service animal in the school setting.</p>
<p>Pol. 113</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians of students with disabilities who believe the student needs to bring a service animal to the school in order to receive a free and appropriate public education shall notify the building administrator or the Section 504 or IEP team. The appropriate team shall evaluate the request to use the service animal in the school, gather necessary information and determine whether the student requires the service animal during the school day or at school activities. This may include a request for parental permission to formally assess the student’s education-based needs that might include alternative methods of accommodating needs. Any service animal accompanying a student with a disability to the school or school activities shall be handled and cared for in a manner detailed in the student’s IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement.</p>
<p>28 CFR Sec. 35.130</p>	<p>Before a service animal shall be allowed in a school building, or on school property or vehicles, the school shall request the following documentation from the owner or handler of the animal:</p>
<p>28 CFR Sec. 35.136</p>	<p>1. Verification of the need for a service animal.</p>
<p>28 CFR Sec. 35.136</p>	<p>2. Description of the function(s) the service animal is trained to perform in relation to the individual’s disability.</p>
<p>3 P.S. Sec. 459-201</p>	<p>3. Current dog license.</p>
<p>3 P.S. Sec. 455.1 et seq</p>	<p>4. Proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal.</p>

<p>43 P.S. Sec. 953 28 CFR Sec. 35.136 Pol. 904</p> <p>28 CFR Sec. 35.136</p> <p>28 CFR Sec. 35.136</p> <p>5. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>28 CFR Sec. 35.136</p>	<p><u>Admission Of Service Animals To Public Events</u></p> <p>Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals while on school property for events that are open to the general public. This right of access does not extend to the schools generally or to other activities that are not open to the general public.</p> <p>School administrators may inquire of the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and the specific tasks that the animal has been trained to perform, but shall not ask questions about an individual's disability.</p> <p>The school shall not require an owner or handler of a service animal to pay an extra charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.</p> <p>The Administrative Director or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative regulations to implement Joint Operating Committee policy and accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal in school buildings and on school property and vehicles.</p> <p>The designated administrator shall ensure that all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an individual in school buildings or on school property or vehicles are informed of the Joint Operating Committee policy and administrative regulations governing this issue. Involved individuals can include administrators, appropriate employees, student and parent/guardian.</p> <p>The owner or handler of a service animal shall be solely responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, clean up and stain removal. 2. Control of the animal at all times through the use of a harness, leash, tether or by other effective means. 3. Damages to school buildings, property and vehicles caused by the animal. 4. Injuries to students, employees, volunteers and visitors caused by the animal. 5. Annual submission of documentation of vaccinations and immunizations. <p>The Administrative Director shall receive and respond to each completed request by an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal.</p>
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<p>Pol. 103.1, 104, 906</p>	<p>Administrators may exclude a service animal from school buildings, property and vehicles under the following circumstances:</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.2. Owner or handler is unable to control the animal.3. Animal is not housebroken.4. Presence of the animal significantly disrupts or interferes with the educational process.5. Presence of the animal would require a fundamental alteration to the program.
	<p>Any individual with a service animal who is aggrieved by a decision to exclude, limit or remove a service animal may appeal that decision in accordance with applicable Joint Operating Committee policy. The appeal must be in writing and provide detailed information regarding the basis of the appeal.</p>
	<p>References:</p>
	<p>Rabies Prevention and Control in Domestic Animals and Wildlife Act – 3 P.S. Sec. 455.1 et seq.</p>
	<p>The Dog Law – 3 P.S. Sec. 459-201</p>
	<p>Pennsylvania Human Relations Act – 43 P.S. Sec. 953</p>
	<p>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794</p>
	<p>Americans With Disabilities Act – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.</p>
	<p>Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability, Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations – 28 CFR Part 35</p>
	<p>Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Regulations, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations – 29 CFR Part 1630</p>
	<p>Access and Admission of Students to Vocational Education Programs, Title 45, Code of Federal Regulations – 45 CFR Part 80, Appendix B</p>
	<p>Joint Operating Committee Policy – 103, 103.1, 104, 113, 707, 904, 906</p>