

Global Education Collaborative

BOARD POLICY

- TITLE:** Global Education Collaborative's (GEC) Animals at School Policy
- DATE:** Adopted by the GEC Board on 2016.09.27
- PURPOSE:** To standardize Global Education Collaborative's (GEC) Animals at School Policy
- POLICY:** **ANIMALS AT SCHOOL POLICY**

General Information

The Board of Directors of the Global Education Collaborative (GEC) recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid and can help support the district's instructional program. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

A teacher may bring an animal to school or arrange for students in his/her class to bring an animal to school for instructional purposes upon written permission from the principal or designee and subject to regulations and other reasonable health, safety, and sanitation precautions. Teachers shall be responsible for ensuring that animals are strictly controlled and for ensuring that all such precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and the animal.

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs on school premises or on school transportation.

When any animal is brought into the classroom, the principal or designee shall provide written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be affected by the animal's presence. When a parent/guardian has provided notification that his/her child has an allergy, asthma, or health condition that may be affected by the animal, the teacher shall remove the animal from the classroom or provide an alternative instructional activity for the student as appropriate.

Students bringing animals to school (including service animals), must have the written consent of the parent/guardian and must first obtain the consent of the teacher and the appropriate site administrator. Verification for the need for service animals must be obtained prior to having the animals on school grounds, and reasonable accommodations shall be made for service animals used by individuals with a disability.

All animals brought to school must be in good physical condition and appropriately immunized. The teacher shall ensure that the species of animal is appropriate for the instructional purpose and age and maturity of the students. All animals, with the exception of service animals, are prohibited on school transportation services.

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All animals shall be humanely and properly housed in cages or containers specific for the species or otherwise appropriately controlled. The teacher shall also ensure that cages and containers are cleaned regularly and that waste materials are removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. If the animal is to remain in the classroom longer than one day, the teacher shall be responsible for care and maintenance of the animal and ensure proper care when school is not in session, such as weekend, vacations, and holidays.

The teacher shall ensure that students receive instruction regarding personal hygiene around animals. Students must receive training in appropriate handling and care of the animals so as to not cause harm to the animal or provoke aggressive behavior. As a matter of proper hygiene, students must thoroughly wash their hands after handling an animal. Students shall be instructed not to touch, pat, or taunt a service animal.

Animals under the control of public safety officials may have access to school property and program locations for enforcement, educational and public relation purposes. Use of these animals is under the jurisdiction of the applicable local ordinance; or state and/or federal laws, codes and regulations. The provisions of this policy directly related to the safety of students, staff and visitors are to be brought to the attention of these officials by the site or program administrator; or the teacher in the absence of an administrator.

Non-Service Animals

Students shall not bring poisonous or wild animals to school. If wildlife specimens are used in a biology class, protective gloves and a face shield shall be worn by anyone handling these specimens and the animals' saliva and neurological tissue shall be treated as infectious.

Animals brought to school by professional handlers for demonstration purposes must be under the control of the handlers at all times. All precautions should be taken to assure that the animals do not pose a threat to students, staff or visitors.

Animals brought to school by students or staff shall generally be taken home the same day they are brought to school. The students or staff are responsible in ensuring the waste created by the animals be thoroughly gathered and discarded and the location thoroughly cleaned.

Non-service animals must be removed immediately from school premises upon the request of the school site administrator.

Service Animals

The use of service animals must comply with all relevant federal and state laws; pertinent local ordinances, rules and regulations; and the provisions of this implementing regulation of District policy. The use of service animals in public places is determined individually whether a student may need a service animal as

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part of his or her Section 504 Plan or IEP. Requests for exceptions to any provision set forth herein may be presented in writing for evaluation and consideration by the site administration on a case-by-case basis.

Definitions

Individual with a Disability: As defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Service Animal: Any 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, or other mental disability. Examples of work or tasks performed by service animals include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are visually-impaired with navigation and other tasks, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, and helping individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

Right to Use of Facilities and Services

The public entities are prohibited from asking an individual about the nature or extent of his or her disability or requiring documentation that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal. A public entity, however, may ask the individual:

1. Whether the animal is required because of a disability, and
2. What work or task the animal has been trained to perform, except when "it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. A public entity may ask the individual to remove his or her service animal from the premises if the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it, or if the animal is not housebroken.

If any of the above conditions are not met, the user can be required to remove the service animal and not bring the service animal back to school premises, or the school transportation, until the user has mitigated the relevant deficiency.

Liability for Service Animals

The user of a service animal shall keep the service animal properly harnessed, or leashed and under control at all times. The owner/user of the service animal is solely responsible for any damage to persons, premises or facilities caused by that service animal. The GEC assumes no responsibility for service animals. The owner/user shall be responsible for the disposal of the animals waste and cleaning of the location.

Special Education/Section 504 Students

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For special education students (i.e. those students qualifying for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Action (IDEA)), Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams may consider whether or not a service animal (meeting the definition above) is required to meet a particular student's unique needs. Should such a service animal be found to be required by an IEP team, conditions for the use of such a service animal should be referenced in the IEP document. Similarly, should a service animal be included in a student's Section 504 Plan, the conditions for the use of such a service animal should be referenced in the Plan document.

The GEC assumes no liability for the safety of animals voluntarily brought to school.

Adopted: 09-27-2016

Amended: