

V. Students

A. Administrative Policies

6. Student Health & Wellness

e. Service Animals in School

PURPOSE

The Narragansett School System acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35.

PHILOSOPHY

The Narragansett School System complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35 while striving to maintain a balance with the interests of students, staff and the general public.

POLICY STATEMENT

Students and/or adults with disabilities may be accompanied by a “service animal” in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school functions, in accordance with the the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35, subject to the following:

1. All requests for an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal must be addressed in writing to the Superintendent of Schools at 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, RI 02882, and must contain required documentation of vaccinations. This written request must be delivered to the Superintendent of Schools Office at least 10 business days prior to bringing the service animal to school or a school function.
2. Service animals are defined by the ADA as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Reasonable modifications to these policies will be made to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.
3. Only animals identified as a “service animal” as defined under the ADA shall qualify as a service animal. Accordingly, the animal must be a dog or, in specific circumstances, a miniature horse. No other Species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted in schools as a “service animal.”
4. Individuals seeking the use of a service dog must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Paroinfluenza, Parvovirus, and Coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies. Individuals seeking the use of a miniature horse must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephalomyelitis, Rhinoneumonitis, Influenza, and Strangles.
5. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
6. All service animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks.
7. All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.

V.A.6.e. Service Animals in School

8. All service animals shall have an identified “handler” who shall not be the responsibility of the Narragansett School System. An identified handler must meet all School System requirements for entry into a school, onto school grounds or at a school sponsored program or activity.
9. Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property.
10. The animal must be "required" for the individual with a disability for reasons directly associated with the individual’s disability condition, as outlined in writing by a licensed medical professional.
11. The animal must be "individually trained" to ~~do~~ perform work or a task for the individual with a disability. The School System reserves the right to make specific inquiries concerning the training the service animal has been provided.
12. Special Provisions/Miniature Horses: Requests to permit a miniature horse to accompany a student or adult with a disability in school buildings, in classroom, or at school functions, will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Factors used to determine if a reasonable modification can be made to accommodate a request for the use of a miniature horse as a service animal may include among other considerations, the following:
 - a. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features.
 - b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse.
 - c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken.
 - d. Whether the miniature horse’s presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.
 - e. Whether the use of a miniature horse as a service animal in these settings is consistent with federal, state and local codes, regulations and licensing requirements.
12. Removal of a Service Animal: A school administrator may ask an individual with a disability or his parents to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a school function if any one of the following circumstances occurs:
 - a. The animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it.
 - b. The animal is not housebroken.
 - c. The animal’s presence would “fundamentally alter” the nature of the service, program, or activity.
13. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control.

V.A.6.e. Service Animals in School

14. The handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal, which includes toileting, feeding, and grooming and veterinary care. The school system is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself, and
- a. The school district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
 - b. Students with service animals are expected to care and supervise their animals. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise his service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the building administrator.

Reference: ADA Regulations, 28 CFR part 35 (as amended, 2010, 2016)

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Narragansett School System
Narragansett, Rhode Island