

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

No. 718

SECTION: 700 Property

TITLE: Service Animals in Schools

ADOPTED: February 15, 2018

REVISED: January 30, 2025

718 USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Purpose

The Board of Education (Board) adopts this policy to provide clarity regarding the rights and requirements for individuals with disabilities to use service animals in order to participate in, and benefit from, District programs, activities and services.

Definitions

Service animal - A dog or miniature horse individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, as further defined in the administrative procedures.[1][2]

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.[1]

Authority

The Board of Education (Board) shall permit individuals with disabilities to use service animals in District buildings, on District property, and on vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the District, in accordance with this policy, other District policies and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.[3][4][5][6]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative procedures to implement Board policy and to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal in District buildings and on District property and vehicles.

When a building principal receives a request to use a service animal in a school setting, they will forward it to the designated administrator as outlined in the administrative procedures.

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 Board policy. The appeal must be in writing and provide detailed information regarding the basis

of the appeal.[7][8][9]

Legal References:

1. 28 CFR 35.104

2. 28 CFR 35.136

3. 43 P.S. 953

4. 29 U.S.C. 794

5. 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq

6. 28 CFR 35.130

7. Pol. 103.1 - Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students With Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students

8. Pol. 104 - Nondiscrimination in Employment Practices

9. Pol. 906 - Public Complaints

Related Information:

28 CFR Part 35

29 CFR Part 1630

Pol. 103 - Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices

Pol. 707 - Use of School Facilities