

Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs)

The District will comply with Michigan and federal law concerning the rights of disabled persons who use guide or assistance dogs and will permit such animals on school premises and school transportation. The dog must be identified by wearing an appropriate harness, leash, or other accepted item of identification, and in the direct custody of the individual being assisted or guided. Such dogs are not pets and must have been trained by a qualified organization or trainer.

The District shall not assume or take custody, control of, or responsibility for, any assistance dog or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or person having custody and control of the dog shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the service animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.

If, in the opinion of the School Principal or authorized designee, any assistance dog is out of control in the school setting or during District transportation, the matter shall be immediately reported to local law enforcement. The parent or guardian of the student having custody and control of the dog, or any other person having custody or control of the dog, will be required to remove the dog from District premises immediately.

If any student or staff member assigned to the classroom, other facility, or area in which an assistance dog is permitted, suffers an allergic reaction to the dog, the person having custody and control of the dog will be required to remove the dog to a different location designated by the Building Principal or designee. An alternative plan will be developed with appropriate District staff and the parents/guardians of the disabled student, if appropriate. Such plan could include the reassignment of the person having custody and control of the dog to a different classroom assignment. This will also apply if an individual on school transportation suffers an allergic reaction. In this case, an alternate plan will be developed in coordination with appropriate school, District, and transportation staff including the involvement of the parents/guardian of the students.

The Superintendent will enact rules to further implement this policy, if necessary.

Approved: April 11, 2011
LEGAL REF: MCL 759.520c