

Wissahickon School
 District
 Ambler, Pennsylvania
 19002

No. 718

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

FIRST READING: April 16, 2012

SECOND READING: May 14, 2012

ADOPTED: May 14, 2012

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definition 28 CFR Sec. 36.104</p> <p>3. Authority 29 U.S.C. Sec. 794 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq 43 P.S. Sec. 953</p>	<p>The Wissahickon Board of School Directors adopts this policy to ensure that individuals with disabilities are permitted to participate in and benefit from District programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the District does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability.</p> <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>The 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, upon request of the individual and/or his/her authorized representative and the submission of required documentation.</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 school so as to allow that individual to participate in and benefit from District programs and/or for employment purposes. The District shall determine whether to permit the use of a service animal as requested in accordance with applicable law. However, before a service animal shall be allowed in a District building, or on District property or in a District vehicle, the owner or handler of the animal shall submit to the building principal a written request which includes the following documentation from a certified professional:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of the individual's specific disability. 2. Verification of the need for a service animal as requested by the individual. 3. Description of the function(s) the service animal is expected to perform in relation to the individual's disability under the circumstances requested.

3 P.S.
Sec. 455.1 et seq

4. Current Pennsylvania license for the service animal.
5. Current veterinary health certificate for the service animal.
6. Proof of current vaccinations and immunizations of the service animal.
7. The Board establishes the following standards for evaluation whether and how a request to bring a service animal on school property can be implemented under the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Standards for Service Dogs

1. The dog must be a trained dog. A trained service dog can be called a hearing dog, guide dog, therapy dog, assistance dog, seizure alert dog, mobility dog, psychiatric service dog, or autism service dog.
2. The service dog must have a health certificate that evidences the dog is currently in good health, free from parasites, and has received and is current on all recommended and required vaccinations.
3. Guide dogs for totally or partially blind persons and hearing dogs for deaf or hearing impaired or otherwise disabled persons must wear a harness, backpack, or vest identifying the dog as a trained service dog.
4. The service dog and its primary handler must be certified for “public access”. Any service dog that is being brought into a school setting must have sufficient training to be certifiable for public access. Assistance Dogs International (ADI), Inc. uses a standardized Public Access Test that results in the dog and its handler being awarded a certificate. Having “Public Access” certification is an important, objective measure of the dog’s ability to behave appropriately in public and the handler’s ability to handle the dog in public. If such a certificate cannot be produced by the handler, then either the dog must pass the ADI Public Access Test or the handler must produce credible proof that the dog has met the ADI’s “Minimum Standards for Training Service Dogs.”
5. Even if the service dog is certified for public access, it will be denied access to school property if at any time the ADI’s “Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public” are not maintained.
6. Subject to reasonable accommodation, the service dog must not disrupt the education of any other student.
7. The service dog must not pose a health or safety threat to any other

	<p>student, personnel or other persons.</p> <p>8. Interactive discussions between the District and the individual with a disability and/or his/her representative shall occur to discuss how the tasks performed by the service dog meet the educational, safety, or access needs of the student in the school setting, and how the use of the service dog is reasonably related to the disability, and what reasonable accommodations are required.</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 District 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>District administrators may inquire of the owner or handler of the animal whether the animal is a trained service animal and the specific tasks that the animal has been trained to perform, but shall not ask questions about an individual's disability except as related to the interactive process in discussing reasonable accommodations.</p> <p>The District 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>5. Delegation of Responsibility</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. Buildings and Grounds staff may need to assist as necessary. 2. Leashing and properly restraining the service animal at all times. 3. Damages to District buildings, property and vehicles caused by the service animal. 4. Injuries to students, employees, volunteers and visitors caused by the service animal. 5. Annual completion of and submission of documentation of vaccinations and immunizations. <p>The building principal shall receive and forward to the Director of Student Services and the Superintendent, or his/her designee, each completed request by an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal. The Director of Student Services or building principal shall</p>

	<p>respond to the request.</p> <p>The designated District administrator shall ensure that all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an owner or handler in District buildings or on District property or vehicles are informed of this Board policy and any applicable regulations governing this issue. Involved individuals can include administrators, appropriate employees, student and parent/guardian.</p> <p><u>Appeal Process of Application of Standards</u></p> <p>A denial of a request for the service dog by administrators may be appealed. A challenge to the administrator’s determination regarding the qualification of the person and/or the dog may be appealed using the complaint process set forth in Board Policies 103 or 906 to the District’s Section 504 Compliance Officer.</p>
	<p>References:</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, Part 36</p> <p>Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Regulations, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations – 29 CFR Part 1630</p> <p>Board Policies 103 and 906 with Administrative Guidelines</p>