

**USE OF ANIMALS IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND
IN CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

The Dickinson Public School Board believes there ~~may be~~ **are** medical and physical dangers associated with allowing interaction with and/or use of animals in the educational program and in district schools. The Board, however, also recognizes that animals may be an effective teaching aid and/or their presence may be required to reasonably accommodate students and staff with disabilities.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy:

- *Disability* is defined in 28 CFR Part 35.108 with respect to an individual, as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.
- *Service animal* is defined in NDCC 25-13-01.1 as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal trained to do work, perform tasks, or provide assistance for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The term includes an animal trained to provide assistance or protection services to an individual with a disability, pull a wheelchair, lend balance support, retrieve dropped objects, or provide assistance in a medical crisis
- *School property* means all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by a school district, and the site of any school-sponsored event or activity.

Use of Animals for Educational Purposes

~~Teachers seeking to request the use of animals~~ Before a teacher may use an animal as part of the educational program or ~~seeking permission for students to participate in an activity involving animals (e.g., a field trip)~~ **shall the teacher must** submit a request to the building principal in accordance with administrative regulations. ~~The principal shall consider such requests on a case-by-case basis based upon criteria established by the Superintendent.~~

Use of Service Animals by the Disabled

~~Disabled students and staff, as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, may be granted use of a service animal for the purpose of reasonable accommodation.~~ A qualified individual with a disability may be granted use of a service animal on school property, provided the work or tasks performed by the service animal are directly related to the individual’s disability. The Superintendent shall make such determinations on a case-by-case basis based on administrative regulations.

Complementary Documents

- ACBC-AR, Use of Animals in Curricular Programs Regulations