

Service Animals in School

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The Almond-Bancroft School District recognizes that service animals may be a reasonable accommodation for assisting individuals with disabilities while at school or at school related events. It is the policy of the Almond-Bancroft School District that service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are generally permitted in all facilities and programs of the school district as described below. Student requests for service animals at school are determined by a properly convened individual education plan (IEP) team or section 504 team.

“Service Animal” is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as 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, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

RULE:

Employee requests for disability accommodations, including requests for have a service animal at work, are determined by the district administrator. Requests for accommodations should be provided in writing.

Service animals accompanying other individuals with disabilities may be allowed in district facilities open to the public when necessary to allow equal access to the district’s facilities. Wisconsin Law allows service dogs in training to be admitted to facilities open to the public. Service dogs in training must wear a harness or leash and special cape and the trainer must present credentials for the dog issued by a school for dog training.

Service animals must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. All vaccination must be current. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag. [Wisconsin statutes 95.21(2)(f)]

State law [Wisconsin Statutes 174.07(1)] requires all dogs to be licensed by the time they reach 5 months of age. Service dogs receive the license at no cost. [Wisconsin statutes 174.055]

Dogs must be on a leash at all times, unless impracticable or unfeasible due to the owner/keeper’s disability. The owner/keeper of a service animal must be in full control of the animal at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of the owner/keeper.

The owner/keeper of a service animal must clean up after the animal defecates.

The owner/keeper of a service animal may be asked to remove the service animal from a district facility or activity if the animal's behavior or presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, a service animal that displays vicious behavior towards people may be excluded.

Service animals may also be excluded in areas where the presence of a service animal fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity or is disruptive. Examples may include but are not limited to, science labs, areas requiring protective clothing, technical education shops with power equipment and tools, and food preparation areas.

In addition, animals not covered under ADA service animal definition can be asked to leave a school district facility or activity.

Any person dissatisfied with a decision concerning a service animal can appeal that decision to the district administrator.

LEGAL REF: Wisconsin Statutes

Section(s)	95.21(2)(f)
	174.055
	174.07
	106.52(3)

CROSS REF: Nondiscrimination on the basis of disability

First Reading: September 20, 2011

Second Reading: October 19, 2011