

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

The Board recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

Animals may be brought to school for educational purposes, subject to rules and precautions specified in administrative regulations related to health, safety, and sanitation. Teachers shall ensure that these rules and precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and animals.

Service animals, as defined by law, may accompany individuals with disabilities on school premises or on school transportation as needed.

When a service animal is brought in to the classroom, the principal or designee shall provide written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the class.

The District assumes no liability for the safety of animals voluntarily brought to school.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures

39839 Guide, signal, and service dogs; transportation

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

51540 Safe and humane treatment of animals at school

GOVERNMENT CODE

810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act, especially:

815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity

835 Conditions of liability

CIVIL CODE

54.1 Access to public conveyances, places of public accommodation, amusement or resort, and housing accommodations

54.2 Guide, signal or service dogs; right to accompany individuals with a disability and trainers; damages