



# RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

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## **Dogs for Blind, Deaf and Mobility-Impaired Persons Service Animals**

~~It shall be the policy of the River Valley School District to permit the use of available school accommodations by blind, deaf or mobility impaired persons being led by a dog that is specially trained to lead or provide support for such persons. It shall further be the policy to permit the use of such available accommodations by trainers of such dogs for the purpose of training the dogs.~~

~~The following conditions shall be met by any trainer wishing to use the facilities of the River Valley School District for the purpose of training dogs to lead or provide support for deaf, blind or mobility impaired persons:~~

- ~~1. The dog must at all times wear a leash, training collar, harness, backpack with harness underneath, or special cape. The logo of said business incorporated to train assist canines must be visible on either the leash, backpack, harness, or special capes.~~
- ~~2. The trainer, before first using the school facilities, must present to the District Administrator, for inspection, credentials issued by a school for training dogs for the blind, deaf or mobility impaired and inform all teachers, administration of local building, and support staff of intent to actively train on school property, and/or train during regular school hours.~~
- ~~3. Only dogs six months of age and older be permitted under this policy, and with the following guidelines:
  - ~~Dogs six months to nine months be allowed during school hours twice a week for only two hours per day.~~
  - ~~Dogs nine months to twelve months be allowed during school hours three times a week for not more than three hours per day.~~
  - ~~Dogs twelve months and older and still in Foster Care to be allowed for 1/2 day, four days a week during regular school hours.~~~~

~~For purposes of this policy, "available accommodations" shall mean all the buildings and grounds of the District except for any kitchen or room used for food storage or preparation.~~

~~LEGAL REF.: Section 174.056 Wisconsin Statutes~~

~~"Service animal" is defined as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.~~

## **Service Animals for Employees**

In accordance with Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment, the Board provides qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation(s). An employee with a disability may request authorization to use a service animal while on duty as such an accommodation. The request will be handled in accordance with the ADA mandated interactive process.

## **Service Animals for Parents, Vendors, Visitors, and Others**

Individuals with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals are permitted access to all areas of the District's facilities where members of the public, as participants in services, programs or activities, as vendors, or as invitees, are permitted to go. Individuals who will access any area of the District's facilities with their service animals should follow the building's standard visitor registration procedures and must notify the Principal that their service animal will accompany them during their visit.

## **Service Animals for Students**

A service animal is permitted to accompany a student with a disability to whom the animal is assigned anywhere on the school campus where students are permitted to be.

A service animal is the personal property of the student and/or parents. The Board does not assume responsibility for training, daily care, or healthcare of service animals. The Board does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage arising out of or relating to the presence or use of service animals on District property or at District-sponsored events.

A service animal that meets the definitions set forth in the ADA and this policy shall be under the control of the student with a disability, or a separate handler if the student is unable to control the animal. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the student with a disability is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the student's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means), or under the control of a handler other than the student.

If the student with a disability is unable to control the service animal and another person serves as the animal's handler, that individual shall be treated as a volunteer and, as such, will be subject to Policy 861.

## **Removing and/or Excluding a Student's Service Animal**

If a service animal demonstrates that it is not under the control of the student or its handler, the Principal is responsible for documenting such behavior and for determining if and when the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

Similarly, in instances when the service animal demonstrated that it is not housebroken, the Principal shall document such behavior and determine whether the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

The Principal should notify the District Administrator prior to or as soon thereafter as is practicable when a service animal has been removed and/or excluded, and, immediately subsequent to such notification, document the reasons for the removal and/or exclusion.

The Principal's decision to remove and/or exclude a service animal from school property may be appealed in accordance with the complaint procedure set forth in Policy 411 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

The procedures set forth in Policy 411 – Nondiscrimination/Equal Education Opportunities do not intend to interfere with the rights of a student and his/her parents or an eligible student to pursue a complaint of legally prohibited discrimination with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or the Department of Justice.

### **Eligibility of a Student's Service Animal for Transportation**

A student with a disability shall be permitted to access School District transportation with his/her service animal. There may also be a need for the service animal's handler, if the handler is someone other than the student, to also access School District transportation.

When a service animal is going to ride on a school bus owned or leased by the District, the student and his/her parents, or eligible student, and the handler, if s/he is someone other than the student, shall:

- A. meet with the principal to discuss critical commands needed for daily interaction and emergency/evacuation, and to determine whether the service animal should be secured on bus/vehicle with a tether or harness.
- B. At the discretion of the Principal, an orientation will take place for students and staff who will be riding the bus/vehicle with the service animal regarding the animal's functions and how students should interact with the animal.
- C. The service animal shall board the bus by the steps with the student, not a lift, unless the student uses the lift to enter and exit the bus. The service animal must participate in bus evacuation drills with the student.
- D. While the bus is in motion, the service animal shall remain positioned on the floor, at the student's feet. A determination shall also be made regarding whether the service animal should be secured on the bus with a tether or harness.

Situations that would cause cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal include:

- A. The student, or handler, is unable to control the service animal's behavior, which poses a threat to the health or safety of others; or
- B. The service animal urinates or defecates on the bus.

The student and his/her parents shall be informed of behaviors that could result in cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal, in writing, prior to the first day of transportation.

Although transportation may be suspended for the service animal, it remains the District's responsibility to transport the student. Furthermore, unless the behavior that resulted in the service animal's removal from the bus is also documented during the school day, the service animal may still accompany the student in school.

## **Vaccination, Licensing and/or Veterinary Requirements**

Service animals, must meet every veterinary requirement set forth in State law and County regulation/ordinance, including but not limited to rabies vaccination or other inoculations required for the animal to be properly licensed.

Legal Reference:     The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)  
                          The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)  
                          Wis. Stat. 106.52, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

Cross Reference:    Policy 836 Domestic Pets on School Premises  
                          Policy 861 School Volunteers  
                          Policy 411 Nondiscrimination/Equal Education Opportunities

APPROVED:         July 11, 1991