

Williamson County Board of Education



Adopted Date:
7/18/11
Editorial 5/27/14

3.3002

SERVICE ANIMALS
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1 An individual with a disability may be accompanied by a service animal at any WCS school site,
2 school activity, or other WCS activity consistent with the provisions of this policy, related
3 procedures, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and any other applicable state and federal laws.
4 The definition of "service animal" shall be that found in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
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6 The Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee, shall establish procedures to be
7 followed for the use of service animals by WCS students and employees. Failure to abide by any of
8 the requirements of this policy may result in the use of the service animal being restricted.
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10 Service animals shall be allowed in all areas where the individual would otherwise be allowed to
11 travel. However, an administrator may restrict the use of service animals in an area due to health
12 and safety restrictions, danger to the animal, or where the use of the animal may compromise the
13 integrity of the activity occurring in the area.
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15 WCS students and employees who are present where a service animal is in use shall not:
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- 17 1. Touch or pet the animal unless invited to do so by the handler;
- 18 2. Feed the animal;
- 19 3. Deliberately startle or otherwise interfere with the work being performed by the animal;
- 20 4. Distract the animal from its work;
- 21 5. Separate or attempt to separate the animal's handler from the animal; or
- 22 6. Inquire about the nature of the individual's disabilities.
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26 WCS shall not be liable for any harm or injury caused to a service animal, nor shall WCS be liable
27 for any harm or injury caused by a service animal to students, staff, visitors, or to any property.
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30 **REQUESTS FOR USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS**

31 All requests for the use of a service animal by a WCS student or employee shall be made in writing
32 to the Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee, on a form created by the
33 district. The form shall be available upon request from the administrator of each school in the case
34 of a student, or from the Human Resources department in the case of an employee. The request
35 must be delivered to the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's designee at least 10
36 business days prior to bringing the service animal to school or work, and the completed request
37 must include any required documentation.
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41 Individuals who are not WCS students or employees who are visiting a WCS facility or event and
42 require an accommodation for their disability should contact the ADA Coordinator for Williamson
43 County at (615) 790-5466, or (615) 472-4000.
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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All service animals must be housebroken.

The animal must be a dog or, in specific circumstances, a miniature horse. No other species of animal, whether wild or domestic, will be permitted as a service animal.

The animal must be required for the individual with a disability, and it must be individually trained to perform work or complete a task(s) related to the disability of the individual.

WCS students and employees making use of a service animal of any kind must provide a health certificate from a licensed veterinarian prior to making use of the animal at school or at work. The health certificate must be provided on a semi-annual basis thereafter.

WCS students and employees making use of a service dog must provide annually proof of a negative result from a fecal test for intestinal parasites, and annual proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parinfluenza, Coronavirus, Bordetella, and Rabies).

All service animals must be:

1. Spayed or neutered (dogs only);
2. Treated for, and kept free of, fleas, ticks, and other parasites; and
3. Kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS / MINIATURE HORSES

Requests to permit a miniature horse to accompany a student or employee with a disability in school buildings, in a classroom, or at school functions, will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to the following factors:

1. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
2. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
3. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
4. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

WCS students and employees making use of a service miniature horse must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rhinoneumonities, Influenza, and Strangles.

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CONTROL OF A SERVICE ANIMAL

An individual with a disability making use of a service animal must keep the animal under control by use of a harness, leash, or other tether. If the individual is unable to do so because of their disability, or if doing so would interfere with the animal's safe and effective performance of work or tasks, the individual must keep the animal otherwise under control by some method or means.

CARE AND SUPERVISION OF A SERVICE ANIMAL

Students and employees with service animals are expected to care for and supervise their animal. WCS is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including, but not limited to, walking the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself. WCS is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.

In the case of a student who is unable to care for or supervise the service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision. In such case, the parent should contact the school administration to make arrangements for the care and supervision of the animal. All issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the building administrator or the Superintendent of Schools.

REMOVAL OF A SERVICE ANIMAL

A school administrator may ask an individual with a disability or that individual's parents to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a school function if any one of the following circumstances occurs:

1. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
2. The animal is not housebroken; or
3. The animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.

Legal References:

28 C.F.R. Part 35 (as amended, 2010)