

CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

**ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES**

**4.33**

The purpose of the Henry County Board of Education Animals on School Premises policy is to allow animals in the classroom while providing for the health and safety of school staff, students and animals. The policy identifies five (5) categories of animals and the procedures to be followed in order to bring animals on school premises. It specifies conditions under which animals must be removed from school premises.

CATEGORY	PROCEDURES
Animals Used in Educational Presentations (single event)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty/Staff member secures the approval of the principal prior to the event/presentation by following the steps described below:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify the instructional purpose or social/emotional objective of the presentation/event.</li><li>2. Provide statement of animal health and temperament <b>or</b> verify that the animal is part of a presentation conducted by an experienced animal handler who engages in demonstrations in a school setting on a regular basis.</li><li>3. Obtain principal's/designee's approval to proceed.</li><li>4. Notify parents of upcoming presentation.</li><li>5. Provide modifications for students who have animal fears or allergies.</li><li>6. Obtain principal's final approval in writing.</li></ol></li></ul>

**CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

<p>Cold Blooded Animals Not Handled by Children (for 1 semester, renewable)</p> <p align="center">and/or</p> <p>Classroom Animals (for 1 semester, renewable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty/Staff member secures the approval of the principal prior to the event/presentation by following the steps described below:</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify instructional purpose or social/emotional objective.</li> <li>2. Provide statement of animal health and temperament <b>or</b> verify that animal is provided by a certified program or agency.</li> <li>3. Obtain principal’s signature of approval to proceed to next steps.</li> <li>4. Notify parents of proposed presence of animal.</li> <li>5. Provide modifications for students who have animal fears or allergies.</li> <li>6. Obtain principal’s final signature of approval.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty/Staff member follows established Health Department/standard precautions procedures for cleaning and disinfecting sinks, cages and surfaces.</li> </ul>
<p>Animals Excluded from School or Classroom Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poisonous, venomous animals.</li> <li>• Family pets unless all policy requirements are met.</li> </ul>
<p>Animals Exempt from Compliance With Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained and certified service animals supporting individuals with disabilities*.</li> <li>• Animals used in K-8 Science Curriculum.</li> <li>• Invertebrates used in Grades 9-12 Science Curriculum.</li> </ul>

Conditions requiring removal of an animal from school premises:

**Injury:** Any animal that causes injury to staff or students must be immediately isolated and removed from the school premises until the situation is resolved. An Injury Report must be completed and the appropriate medical care must be administered.

**Health Issue:** If a student or staff member has an allergic reaction or other health problem because of the presence of an animal, the animal must be immediately removed from the classroom/workspace of the affected individual and removed from school premises until the situation is resolved.

## CHAPTER 4.00 – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

**Aggression:** Any animal that behaves aggressively must be immediately isolated and removed from the school premises.

Animals may not be transported to and/or from school on school buses or via any other transportation provided by the school system except as specified in a student's IEP and approved by the Superintendent.

\*The Superintendent shall direct the development, publication and implementation of procedures for the use of trained, certified service animals at school and school-related activities for students whose IEP includes such provisions and/or for specific employees who qualify for such as an ADA accommodation.

### REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA

[16-8-8](#)

### HISTORY:

ADOPTED: JULY 18, 2013

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

FORMERLY: NEW