

Hardin County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Service Animals in Schools	Descriptor Code: 6.5001	Issued Date: 08/08/11
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The Hardin County School District acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with
2 disabilities to be accompanied by a "service animal" in its school buildings, in classrooms, and at school
3 functions, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 C.F.R. Part 35, subject to the following:
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- 5 1. All requests for an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal must be ad-
6 dressed in writing to the Director of Schools at the Hardin County Board of Education at 155 Guinn
7 Street in Savannah, Tennessee. The written request must contain required documentation of vaccina-
8 tions. This written request must be delivered to the Director of Schools' Office at least ten business
9 days prior to bringing the service animal to school or to a school function.
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- 11 2. Owners of a service dog must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations: DHLPPC (Distem-
12 per, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, Coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies.
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- 14 3. Owners of service miniature horses must provide annual proof of the following vaccinations:
15 Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rinoneumonitis, Influenza, Strangles.
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- 17 4. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered.
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- 19 5. All service animals must be treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks.
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- 21 6. All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.
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- 23 7. Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students,
24 staff, visitors, and/or property.
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- 26 8. The animal must be a dog or, in specific circumstances, a miniature horse. No other species of animal,
27 whether wild or domestic will be permitted in schools as a service animal.
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- 29 9. The animal must be "required" for the individual with a disability.
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- 31 10. The animal must be "individually trained" to do work or a task for the individual with a disability.
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- 33 11. ***Special Provisions Miniature Horses:***
34 Requests to permit a miniature horse to accompany a student or adult with a disability in school build-
35 ings, in classroom, or at school functions, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, considering:
36 a. The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these
37 features;
38 b. Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
39 c. Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
40 d. Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety re-
41 quirements that are necessary for safe operation.
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3 12. **Removal of a Service Animal:** A school administrator may ask an individual with a disability or his/
4 her parents to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a school function
5 if any one of the following circumstances occurs:

- 6 a. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
7 b. The animal is not housebroken.
8 c. The animal's presence would "fundamentally alter" the nature of the service, program, or activity.
9 If an animal is properly excluded. If a public entity properly excludes a service animal under Sec.
10 35.136(b), it shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the ser-
11 vice, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises. 28 C.F.R. Sec.
12 35.136(c).
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14 13. A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because
15 of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether
16 would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case
17 the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.
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19 14. The school system is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking
20 the animal or responding to the animal's need to relieve itself.
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- 22 a. The School District is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or
23 to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
24 b. Students with service animals are expected to care and supervise their animal. In the case of a
25 young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise his or her service
26 animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to
27 the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the discre-
28 tion of the building administrator.
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30 Reference: ADA Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (as amended, 2010)
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