

**INSTRUCTION**

**Animals at School**

The Superintendent or designee shall develop rules and procedures to ensure that when animals are brought to school, the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and the animals are protected. However, the district assumes no liability for the safety of animals allowed on district property. (*Gov Code 815;835*)

The only animals that are allowed at school or at school-related activities are service animals or those animals brought for an instructional purpose. The animal and the animal's owner must comply with the requirements as described below.

Use of animals for instructional purposes

Before any student or employee brings an animal, for an instructional purpose, to the El Dorado County Office of Education or school where an EDCOE program is operated, he/she shall receive written permission from the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall give such permission only after he/she has provided written notification to all parents/guardians of students in the affected class, asking them to verify whether their child has any known allergies, asthma, or other health condition that may be aggravated by the animal's presence. When a parent/guardian has provided notification that his/her child has an allergy, asthma, or health condition that may be aggravated by the animal, the Superintendent or designee shall take appropriate measures to protect the student from exposure to the animal.

All animals brought to EDCOE or school must be in good physical condition and must be appropriately immunized. The teacher shall ensure that the species of animal is appropriate for the instructional purpose and age and maturity of the students.

All animals shall be humanely and properly housed in cages or containers for the species. All animals brought to school shall be adequately fed, effectively controlled, humanely treated, and properly housed in cages or containers suitable for the species. The teacher shall also ensure that cages and containers are cleaned regularly and that waste materials are removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The teacher shall ensure that students receive instruction regarding personal hygiene around animals.

All animals, with the exception of service animals as defined below, are prohibited on school transportation services. (*Education Code 39839; 13 CCR 1216*)

## Use of service animals by individuals with disabilities

For an individual with a disability, *service animal* means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks related to the individual's disability and for his/her benefit. For example, for an individual who is blind or has low vision, a service animal would mean a dog that helps him/her with vision, navigation, and other tasks; for an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, a service animal would mean a dog that alerts him/her to the presence of people or sounds; and for an individual with psychiatric or neurological disabilities, a service animal would mean a dog that assists him/her by alerting, preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. (28 CFR 35.104)

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied on school premises and on school transportation by service animals, including specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or other service dogs. (*Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2; 28 CFR 35.136*) Individuals with disabilities are expected to control their service animal at all times.

The Superintendent or designee may ask any individual with a disability to remove his/her service animal from school premises or transportation if the animal is out of control and the individual does not take effective action to control it or the animal is not housebroken. When an individual's service animal is excluded, he/she shall be given an opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal present. (*Education Code 39839; Civil Code 54.2; 28 CFR 35.136*)