INSTRUCTION

Service Animals in Schools

The Port Townsend School District Board of Directors acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” as required by federal laws and Washington State’s law against discrimination. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses and at school activities.

A “service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person’s sensory, mental or physical disability. As of March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The parent/guardian of a student who believes the student needs to bring a service animal to school or an employee who wishes to bring a service animal to school, must submit a written request to the building principal. The building principal, in consultation with the Section 504 coordinator or director of special services, as appropriate, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school.

The superintendent will develop procedures to implement the policy.

Cross References:  Policy 2029  Animals as Part of the Instructional Program
Policy 2161  Education of Students with Disabilities
Policy 2162  Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
Policy 3210  Nondiscrimination
Policy 5010  Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action

Legal References:  American Disabilities Act (ADA), Revised Title II Regulations
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
RCW 49.60.040  Definitions
RCW 28A.642  Discrimination Prohibition
WAC 392-145-021 (3)  General Operating Requirements
WAC 392-172A-01155 (3)  Related Services
WAC 392-172A-01035  Child with a Disability or Student eligible for Special Education
WAC 392-190  Equal Educational Opportunity – unlawful discrimination prohibited
WAC 162-26  Public accommodations, disability discrimination

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