



## Animals at School for Instructional Purposes Policy

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The Board of Education recognizes that animals can be an effective teaching aid. In addition, instruction related to the care and treatment of animals teaches students a sense of responsibility and promotes the humane treatment of living creatures.

Animals may be brought to school, with the written permission of a site administrator, only for *educational purposes* and subject to rules and precautions specified in administrative regulations related to health, safety and sanitation. Teachers shall ensure that these rules and precautions are observed so as to protect both the students and animals.

Other than for educational or special needs assistance purposes, unauthorized animals shall be strictly prohibited from any district site.

The district assumes no liability for the safety of animals voluntarily brought to school.

### **Animals at School**

All Animals brought to school must be:

1. In good physical condition.
2. Vaccinated against transmittable diseases.
3. In clean, safe and suitable cages or containers or otherwise appropriately restrained.

Students bringing animals to school must first obtain the consent of the teacher, the administrator and the parent / guardian.

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied on school premises and school buses by service animals, including specially trained dogs, signal dogs, or service dogs. (Please see the FCS policy for service animals on campus for more details.)

Students shall not bring poisonous or wild animals to school. If wildlife specimens are used in a biology class, protective gloves and a face shield shall be worn by anyone handling these and the animals' saliva and neurological tissue shall be treated as infectious.

Animals brought to school by students shall be taken home the same day they are brought to school.

With the consent of the administrator or designee, animals may remain at school longer under the following conditions:

1. The animal shall remain in the classroom only for the number of days needed to achieve the educational goal.
2. The teacher shall provide a plan for the proper care, sanitation, feeding and handling of the animal.
3. The teacher shall be responsible for the animal's care in the event of any school closure and may allow students to take class pets home over weekends.
4. The teacher shall be familiar with any potential dangers caused by the animal and shall give special consideration to any students who have allergies to certain animals.