

ANIMALS AS PART OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

POLICY:

Requests to include animals in the instructional program of the classroom or school shall be approved by the principal. Health issues (allergies, vaccinated status of the animal, etc.) involving students and staff shall be addressed before permission is given to allow the animal in the school.

If the instructional program involving the animal is ongoing and the animal will remain at school when school is not in session, appropriate arrangements for the animal's care must be made.

Animals that are part of the instructional program shall be under the control of their adult owner, the teacher, or designated students at all times.

This policy does not apply to service animals for the disabled.

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PROCEDURES:

Prior to granting or denying a request to include an animal in the school's instructional program, the principal shall evaluate the following issues:

1. There is an educational benefit to be gained by the inclusion of the animal in the instructional program.
2. There is an appropriate plan for the control of the animal, especially if wild or poisonous.
3. Any health concerns involving students, staff, or other animals have been thoroughly addressed (i.e., allergies, the vaccination status of the animal, if relevant, or the transmission of disease from the animal).
4. The animal's health, safety, and well-being have been appropriately evaluated.
5. Sanitary issues have been addressed (i.e., animal waste, the personal hygiene of students or staff in contact with the animal, etc.).