

Service Animals

The Marion County Board of Education recognizes that service/assistance animals can play an important role in facilitating the independence of some individuals with certain types of disabilities. Therefore, an appropriately trained animal, under the control of its partner/handler, may be allowed in school facilities where animals would typically not be permitted. The use of service animals will be reviewed on a case by case basis in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504/IDEA.

Service Animal Defined- Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS-

Students must provide appropriate documentation of their disability that clearly and explicitly explains the need for a service animal and its specific functions to the local school Administrator.

The animal must be clean and in good health. Records of appropriate vaccination from a licensed veterinarian dated within the past year must be submitted to the Accommodative Services Office. Dogs must have had the general maintenance vaccine series and must wear a current rabies Vaccination tag.

Verification that the animal meets minimum training standards from a recognized school for service animals must be provided.

The animal must wear some type of easily recognized identification symbol

Restricted Areas

There are certain areas that may be considered unsafe for the animal and its partner, or where the presence of animal might interfere with the safety of others (i.e., labs, machine rooms, kitchen-areas where protective clothing is necessary. Exceptions would have to be made on a case-by-case basis. If it is determined that an area is unsafe, reasonable accommodations will be provided to assure equal access to the student.

SOURCE: Marion County Board of Education, Hamilton, AL

ADOPTED: 9/15/2010