



Policy Number: 3290

Dated: 01/14/2016

POLICY SERVICE ANIMALS

PURPOSE

American Leadership Academy acknowledges the legal rights of students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” in its facilities; on its properties; at school functions, events, and activities; and in connection with transportation services as required by the Americans with disabilities Act, 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (ADA). American Leadership Academy shall comply with state and federal laws concerning the rights of persons with service animals.

DEFINITIONS

The term **“service animal”** means any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

The service animal must perform work or tasks directly related to the individual’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

A **“service animal”** does not include other species of animals, wild or domestic, trained or untrained, or an animal used solely to provide a crime deterrent, an emotional support or well-being, comfort or companionship.

The terms **“perform work or tasks”** means that the service animal is trained to respond to the needs of an individual with a disability in order to mitigate the disability. The process must

have two steps: (a) recognition; and (b) response. For example, if a service animal senses that an individual is about to have a psychiatric episode and from its training, responds by nudging, barking, or removing the individual to a safe location until the episode subsides, then the animal has indeed performed a task or done work in behalf of the individual with the disability, as opposed to merely sensing an event.

GUIDELINES

An employee who believes they need to bring a service animal to school or the parent/guardian of a student who believes the student needs to bring a service animal to school must submit a written request to the building administrator. The building administrator, in consultation with the Section 504 coordinator for students or the Director of Special Education, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school.

The school may exclude a service animal or ask an individual with a disability to remove the animal from the premises if;

1. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it.
2. The animal is not housebroken, and/or urinates or defecates in inappropriate locations.
3. The animal demonstrates acts of aggression towards people or other animals.
4. The animal has unnecessary vocalization (e.g., barking, growling, or whining).
5. The presence of the animal constitutes a "fundamental alteration: in the nature of the school's program or activity.
6. The parent/guardian of the student fails to submit proof of current vaccinations.

A service animal shall be under control by a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the student is unable to because of a disability to use a harness, leash or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks. If one of the exceptions occurs the service animal must be otherwise under control through voice control, signals, or other effective means.

The school is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. The student is responsible for feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the animal.

All service animals must be kept cleaned and groomed, kept free of fleas and ticks and must be spayed or neutered.

The school may charge an individual with a disability for any damage to school property caused by his or her service animal and is liable for any injuries to persons by the service animal.

Individuals with contradictory disabilities that are adversely impacted by service animals should contact their school administrator. Such individuals will be asked to provide documentation that identifies their disabilities and their need for accommodations. (Certain individuals with animal dander allergies or fear of dogs may qualify as individuals with disabilities.) The school administrator shall strive to facilitate a process to resolve the conflict that considers the conflicting needs/accommodations of the disabled individuals involved. However, the school administrator may exclude the service animal if it poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

The school will require a meeting between the school administrator and the Director of Special Education, and the individual with a disability requesting accompaniment by a service animal to determine if the animal complies with this policy and discuss any necessary accommodations. Until approval is received. The service animal will not be permitted at the school or any school function.