



Administrative Regulation 7521

SERVICE ANIMALS

Responsible Office: Office of Academics (Student Requests) and Office of Human Resources (Employee Requests)

PURPOSE

The Superintendent adopts this Administrative Regulation to establish the guidelines related to the use of service animals on the properties of and at the activities of the Washoe County School District (District).

REGULATION

1. Service Animals

- a. A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities, as defined under the [Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008](#) (ADAAA). The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Examples of such work or tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, and pulling a wheelchair.
- b. Where reasonable, miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks directly related to a disability are permitted on District property as service animals.
- c. All other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for purposes of this regulation.
- d. It is unlawful for a person to fraudulently misrepresent an animal as a service animal or service animal in training.

2. Proof of Disability – Allowable Questions

- a. Except as where authorized under the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#), the District shall not inquire about the nature or extent of the person's disability nor require proof of the animal's certification, licensure or training.
- b. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, employees may only ask the following two questions:
 - i. Is the service animal required because of a disability; and

- ii. What work or task has the service animal been trained to perform.

3. Request for Regular Use of Service Animal

a. Students

- i. A service animal may be needed for certain students. The parent/guardian of the student shall submit written documentation of intent to bring a service animal to the school principal/site administrator. Such documentation should be received not later than five school days prior to the animal coming to school to allow the school adequate time to plan and prepare. Documentation should include information related to the service animal as stated in #2 above.

b. Employees

- i. An employee wishing to regularly use a service animal shall document such request as a request for ADA accommodation through the Office of Human Resources' Benefits Department.

4. General Rules for Use of Service Animals

- a. Persons with disabilities who are accompanied by service animals are subject to the same conditions and limitations that apply to persons who are not so disabled and accompanied.
- b. Service animals shall not be barred from District property because of unsubstantiated health, sanitation, or safety concerns and may go anywhere the student, employee, or member of the public would be permitted, such as classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias.
- c. All service dogs must be spayed or neutered by the service animal's handler; treated for, and kept free of, fleas and ticks; and kept clean and groomed by the service animal's handler to avoid shedding and dander. The owner of the service animal is liable for any harm or injury caused by the animal to other students, employees, visitors and/or property.
- d. All service animals must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable 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 task, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control; i.e., voice control, hand signals or other effective means of control.

- e. The District and its employees are not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal, responding to the animal's need to relieve itself, or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
 - i. Students with service animals are expected to care for and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise the animal, the parent/guardian is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the building administrator.

5. Removal of Service Animal

- a. The District reserves the right to remove a service animal if any of the requirements set forth above are not met. The building administrator may also request that a person with a disability or a student's parent/guardian remove a service animal from a District property or a school activity if any one of the following circumstances occur:
 - i. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
 - ii. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
 - iii. The animal is not house broken; or
 - iv. The animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity.
- b. If a service animal is excluded, the person with the disability shall have the opportunity to continue to access the program, activity, event and/or facility without having the service animal on the premise.

6. Service Animal in Training

- a. A service animal in training to perform work or tasks for a person with a disability shall be permitted the same access as service animals. An individual bringing a service animal in training on District property or to a District activity is responsible for complying with the provisions of this Administrative Regulation. Failure to do so may result in the animal being removed.

7. Therapy, Comfort, and Emotional Support Animals

- a. Dogs and other animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support or passive comfort do not qualify as service animals and are, therefore, prohibited on District property and/or at District activities or events without specific permission.
- b. Access for therapy animals is evaluated similar to any other request for accommodation and should be directed to the appropriate District office.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- 1. This Administrative Regulation reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 0100, Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity; and
 - b. Board Policy 5700, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment.
- 2. This Administrative Regulation complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. NRS Chapter 426, Persons with Disabilities;
 - b. NRS Chapter 613, Employment Practices, specifically:
 - i. NRS 613.330 Unlawful employment practices: Discrimination on basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, national origin or discussion of wages; interference with aid or appliance for disability; refusal to permit service animal at place of employment; consideration of criminal history without following required procedure.
 - c. NRS Chapter 651, Public Accommodations, specifically:
 - i. NRS 651.075 Rights, duties and liabilities of persons training or accompanied by service animal, service animal in training or police dog; unlawful acts; rights of place of accommodation; unmuzzled animal may not be presumed dangerous; exception for miniature horse under certain circumstances; person subject to same conditions and limitations as others; remedies.
- 3. This Administrative Regulation complies with federal laws and regulations, to include:
 - a. Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II Regulations as amended in 2025, 28 C.F.R. Part 35, specifically:

i. Section 35.136, Service Animals.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
05/10/2011	1.0	Adopted
10/22/2013	2.0	Converted to Administrative Regulation format
3/15/2016	3.0	Revised to clarify request guidelines for students and employees
5/24/2017	4.0	Revised to include guidelines related to service animals in training
9/10/2019	5.0	Revised to remove reference to a student's Individualized Education Plan
09/23/2025	6.0	Revised to conform with governing document style guide, make language more concise and to update legal references