

## **BOARD POLICY**

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

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Instruction

6163.2 - BP

### **ANIMALS AT SCHOOL**

The Governing Board recognizes that animals can contribute to the District's instructional program by being effective teaching aids to students for assemblies, instructional programs, or classroom presentations. Service animals may also assist individuals with disabilities to access District programs and activities. 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop rules and procedures to ensure that when animals are brought to school, the health and welfare of students, staff, and the animals are protected. However, the District assumes no liability for the safety of animals allowed on District property.

Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by specially trained guide dogs, signal dogs, or service animals on school premises or on school transportation. The Superintendent or designee shall develop an accompanying administrative regulation for language reflecting this right.

A service animal is any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing, providing minimal rescue or protection work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items. The service the animal is providing must be one it has been individually trained to perform, and directly related to the functional limitation of the person's disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets.

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of the definition of a service animal.

#### Therapy Animals (District-Approved Programs)

The Governing Board recognizes that, in limited circumstances, trained therapy or support animals may provide mental health support to students when used as part of a structured educational or wellness program.

The Superintendent or designee may approve the presence of a therapy or support animal on school grounds when the animal is:

- Provided and handled by a qualified professional or certified organization;
- Part of a structured instructional, counseling, or student support program; and
- In compliance with all district health, safety, vaccination, and liability requirements.

Approval for such animals shall be granted on a case-by-case basis and may be revoked if the presence of the animal poses a health, safety, or disruption concern.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative regulations to ensure appropriate safeguards, including parent notification, supervision requirements, and protocols to address student allergies or health concerns.

LEGAL REFERENCE:	Education Code	233.5 Instruction in kindness to pets and humane treatment of living creatures
		39839 Transportation of guide dogs, signal dogs, service dogs
		51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety
		51540 Safe and humane treatment of animals at school
	Civil Code	54.1 Access to public places 54.2 Guide, signal, or service dogs, right to accompany
	Government Code	810-996.6 California Tort Claims Act, especially: 815 Liability for injuries generally; immunity of public entity
		835 Conditions of liability
	Vehicle Code	2113 Public Grounds
	Code of Regulations Title 26	13-1216 Transportation of Property
	United States Code, Title 20	1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
United States Code, Title 29	794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504	
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 28	35.104 Definitions 35.136 Service Animals	

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