

Service Animals

Service Animals

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the use of service animals in Paris C.U.S.D. No. 4, including school buildings, vehicles and other property.

Policy

Paris C.U.S.D. No. 4 will comply with all state and federal laws, regulations and rules regarding the use of service animals by disabled staff or students under appropriate circumstances.

Definition of a Service Animal

This policy applies to 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 to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. Service animals do not include wild animals, farm animals and rodents and animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being.

Procedures and Requirements

- A. Staff members or parents must submit a request for the use of a service animal to the Principal. Such request must identify and describe the need for the service animal as it relates to the staff member or student's disability and describe the manner in which the service animal will meet the individual's particular need(s) and provide a letter from their physician who is the health care provider regarding the need for a service animal.
- B. Requests for the use of service animals on School District property must, whenever possible, be made no less than nine (9) weeks prior to the proposed use of the service animal. Under no circumstances may a service animal be on School District property without prior approval by the Principal.
- C. As part of the School District's consideration of a request for the use of a service animal, the School District may require certain documentation, including, but not limited to:
 1. documentation that the service animal is properly trained and licensed;
 2. certification of proper vaccinations verified by a veterinarian;
 3. documentation that the handler for the service animal is properly trained; and
 4. documentation of adequate liability insurance.
- D. The School District's review of a request for the use of a service animal may include consideration by a student's special education team and/or Section 504 team. Also, the School District may require a meeting with and/or additional information from the staff member or parent requesting the use of a service animal, including, but not limited to, documentation/consultation from the staff member's or student's health care provider.

- E. The use of a service animal on School District property may be subject to a plan which introduces the service animal to the school environment, any appropriate training for staff and students regarding interaction with the service animal, and other activities or conditions deemed necessary by the School District. The School District's approval of the use of a service animal on School District property is subject to periodic review, revision or revocation by the Principal and/or Superintendent.
- F. Service animals must wear proper identification and always be on a leash or other form of restraint mechanism. It is the responsibility of the staff person or student who uses a service animal pursuant to this Policy to be the certified handler, providing proper handling of the service animal. Any cost incurred to handle the service animal will be the responsibility of the staff person or parent of the student who uses the service animal.
- G. The School District retains discretion to exclude or remove a service animal from its property if:
 - 1. the animal is out of control and/or the animal's handler does not effectively control the animal's behavior;
 - 2. the animal is not housebroken or the animal's presence or behavior fundamentally interferes in the functions of the School District; or
 - 3. the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated by reasonable modifications.

Liability

The staff member or student/parent is liable for any damage to School District or personal property and any injuries to individuals caused by their service animal. The staff member or student/parent who uses a service animal on School District property will hold the School District harmless and indemnify the School District from any such damages. Further, the staff member, student/parent will be required to submit a certificate of liability insurance covering the service animal and identifying the School District as an additional insured. The amount of required insurance coverage shall be determined by the School District.

School District Organization

School District Legal Status

The Illinois Constitution requires the State to provide for an efficient system of high-quality public educational institutions and services in order to achieve the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capabilities.

The General Assembly has implemented this mandate through the creation of school districts. The District is governed by the laws for school districts serving a resident population of not fewer than 1,000 and not more than 500,000.

The Board of Education constitutes a body corporate that possesses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in that name may sue and be sued, purchase, hold and sell personal property and real estate, and enter into such obligations as are authorized by law.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art X, Sec. 1
105 ILCS 5/10-1 et seq.

CROSS REF.: 2:10, 2:20

ADOPTED: April 12, 2000

REVISED: September 14, 2011

REVISED: October 12, 2016

School District Organization

District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements

The District is organized and operates as a Unit District serving the needs of children in grades kindergarten to 12 and others as required by The School Code.

The District participates in the following joint programs and intergovernmental agreements with units of local government and other school districts in order to jointly provide services and activities in a manner that will increase flexibility, scope of service opportunities, cost reductions, and/or otherwise benefit the District and the community. The Superintendent shall manage these activities to the extent the program or an agreement requires the District's participation, and shall provide periodic implementation or operational data and/or reports to the School Board concerning these programs and agreements. The District participates in the following joint programs and intergovernmental agreements:

Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education
Eastern Illinois Education for Employment System
Pathways
Bridges
Head Start

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. VII, Sec. 10.
5 ILCS 220/1 et seq.

ADOPTED: April 12, 2000

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School District Organization

School District Philosophy

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District 4, believes that each individual should be accepted into the education program as he or she is, that he or she shall be provided with a stimulating environment and opportunities for learning experiences designed to promote behavioral changes that will affect continuing satisfactory adjustment to life.

In the practical application of this philosophy, opportunities shall be provided each individual within the limits of his or her capacity to:

1. Develop physical, mental and emotional health.
2. Develop moral and ethical values.
3. Develop an appreciation for his or her role in the family and groups.
4. Develop skills for effective participation in the democratic processes.
5. Develop the ability to communicate ideas.
6. Develop knowledge and understanding of his or her natural environment.
7. Develop economic competence as a consumer.
8. Develop saleable skills and vocational competence.
9. Develop appreciation of the arts.
10. Develop wise use of leisure time.
11. Develop zeal for continuous learning and self-improvement.

CROSS REF.: 6:10

ADOPTED: April 12, 2000

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