

Service Animals in District Facilities

Service animals¹ are allowed pursuant to state and federal law.

An individual or the family of an individual that has a service animal should notify the district in advance, when possible, that the service animal will be providing accommodations to a student, employee, or patron of the district. This is to allow for appropriate planning, such as determining if there are persons with disabilities or conditions in the building that may be affected.

If it is not readily apparent what work the service animal is to perform (e.g., guiding an individual who is blind or pulling a wheelchair), then the district may ask only:

1. Whether the service animal is required because of a disability; and
2. What work or task the service animal has been trained to perform.

The district will require proof that the service animal is vaccinated, registered or licensed in compliance with local requirements.

A handler for the service animal must be provided by the individual, the district is not required to provide a handler or to supervise or otherwise care for a service animal.

END OF POLICY

¹The American with Disabilities Act definition of “service animal” means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Companion and comfort animals are not considered service animals. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be 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. The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition. The law and its regulations also make an allowance for miniature horses.

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 659A.400](#)

[OAR 581-053-0010](#)
[OAR 581-053-0230\(9\)\(j\)](#)
[OAR 581-053-0330\(1\)\(q\)](#)

[OAR 581-053-0430\(16\)](#)
[OAR 581-053-0531\(15\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2006); 28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.136 (2006).
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.