

# Multnomah Education Service District

Code: **ING**  
Adopted: 9/20/94  
Revised/Readopted: 5/18/10; 2/15/11; 2/19/13;  
4/15/14; 10/17/17

## **Animals in MESD Facilities**

Multnomah ESD welcomes animals into the classroom for instructional purposes with the appropriate permissions and with safety of others being the highest priority.

Prior authorization is required to help protect the health and safety of MESD students and staff members and the animal itself and to ensure the individual bringing the animal can control its behavior.

Only service animals<sup>1</sup> serving persons with a disability and animals approved by the human resource director that are part of an approved ESD curriculum or co-curricular activity are allowed in ESD facilities. Approved animals must be adequately cared for and appropriately secured. Only the staff or students designated by the program supervisor or building administrator are to handle the animals.

If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, arrangements must be made for their care.

Animals, except those service animals serving persons with a disability, may not be transported on a school bus.

### **Visiting Animals to MESD Facilities**

Those persons requesting permission to bringing a visiting animal to an MESD facility shall submit a Visiting Animals in MESD Facilities Request Form (Administrative Regulation ING-AR(1)) to the building administrator/supervisor and receive approval from the building administrator/supervisor at least three days before an animal is brought to the facility.

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<sup>1</sup>The 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.

## **Service Animals in MESD Facilities**

Those requesting, and prior to bringing assistance animals to an MESD facility, shall submit a Service Animals in MESD Facilities Request Form (Administrative Regulation ING-AR(2)) to the building administrator/supervisor and receive approval from the building administrator/supervisor at least three days before an animal is brought to the building.

## **Safety and Liability Responsibilities**

For safety purposes, all visiting assistance animals visiting classrooms or MESD facilities shall be under the supervision of the owner at all times and the owner shall maintain absolute control of any behavior the animal demonstrates. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle or interact with the animals. No student other than the owner shall be given the opportunity to be in direct control of any animal at any time.

END OF POLICY

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### **Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 334.125](#)

[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 (2017); 28 CFR §§ 35.104, 35.136 (2017).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.

Multnomah County Ordinance 13.154 (A).

### **MESD Policy Cross Reference(s):**

IA/IAA - Instructional Goals

IG - Instructional Design

II/IIA - Instructional Resources/Instructional Materials

JA/JAA - Student Policies, Goals and Objectives

JAB - Learning Supports to Enhance Achievement

JB - Educational Opportunity

JE - Attendance

JECD - Assignment of Students to Classes

JH - Student Welfare

JHFA - Supervision of Students

KGB - Public Conduct on MESD Property