

Purpose

To define the role and use of service animals in Allegany County Public Schools as required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Definitions

Service animals - 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. 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 provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

Miniature horse – Similar to dogs, miniature horses can be trained as service animals. Miniature horses are not one specific breed, and are different from ponies and full-size horses. A miniature horse is generally 24-34 inches in height (measured to the withers or shoulders) and generally weighs between 70-100 pounds. Given the size of certain large breed dogs, a miniature horse can be particularly effective as a service animal for large stature individuals.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Allegany County Board of Education to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a service animal in its buildings, schools, classrooms and at Board of Education functions

Legal Reference The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Regulations)	[28 CFR §35 (as amended, 2010)] [Md. Code. Ann., Human Services, §7-705 (c)]		
Policy History	Adopted	Reviewed	Revised