

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALSI. Purpose

This regulation provides guidelines related to the use of emotional support animals on Clark County School District (District) properties and at activities sponsored by the District.

II. Definition

Emotional support animals are not service animals under federal or state law. They are considered emotional support or comfort animals. Individuals with disabilities may request to use an emotional support animal as an accommodation. These support animals provide companionship; relieve loneliness; and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias. Emotional support animals do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities.

III. Student Use of Emotional Support AnimalsA. Student request to be accompanied by an emotional support animal:

1. The school should treat the matter as a request for an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
2. An emotional support animal is expected to have basic manners but no specialized training is required by law.
3. If the Section 504 team grants the request for an accommodation, the Section 504 team must design a management plan for the handler to implement that addresses the emotional support animal's feeding and elimination needs.
4. As part of the management plan, the District shall inform the handler that all costs associated with the emotional support animal are to be covered by the handler.
5. The management plan should also address considerations, such as student arrival/dismissal, passing periods and designated areas in the cafeteria.

R-2500.1 (page 2)

B. The principal or principal designee must remove an emotional support animal from the school campus if:

1. The handler does not maintain control of the emotional support animal.
2. The emotional support animal is not housebroken.
3. The emotional support animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of students, staff, or the community.

IV. Employee Request to Use an Emotional Support Animal

Employees may request that they be permitted the use of an emotional support animal as an accommodation. The employee's request should be referred to the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action Programs/Title IX for the request to be properly assessed and considered in accordance with federal and state law.

V. Use of Emotional Support Animals by Members of the Community

Emotional support animals are not service animals under federal or state law.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq., and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794.

Review Responsibility: Student Services Division and Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action/ADA and Title IX Programs  
Office of the General Counsel

Adopted: