

## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULATION

R-2500.2

### SCHOOLWIDE THERAPY DOGS

#### I. Purpose

This regulation provides guidelines for the use of schoolwide therapy dogs in the Clark County School District (District) to promote the health and safety of students and staff, maintain a positive and safe learning environment, and ensure the proper treatment of schoolwide therapy dogs.

#### II. Guidelines for Use of a Schoolwide Therapy Dog

- A. Only one schoolwide therapy dog may be in use at a school. Once approved, multiple dogs may serve as a schoolwide therapy dog, but at any given time, only one approved schoolwide therapy dog may be at the school.
- B. Any and all costs associated with a schoolwide therapy dog shall be paid by the handler. If donations are received for the sole purpose of a schoolwide therapy dog, a separate account must be created and maintained following operational requirements.
- C. A handler is only permitted to supervise one schoolwide therapy dog at any time.
- D. The handler is responsible for the direct supervision of the schoolwide therapy dog at all times. If the schoolwide therapy dog is not under the handler's supervision, it must be secured.
- E. The schoolwide therapy dog is not permitted to roam the grounds without the handler.
- F. The schoolwide therapy dog is not permitted in the vicinity of sinks where students and staff wash their hands.
- G. The schoolwide therapy dog is not permitted in areas where food is prepared or stored or where utensils and/or dishes are stored.
- H. Service animals and emotional support animals are not schoolwide therapy dogs. Service animals and emotional support animals serve a specific individual and may not be used as a schoolwide therapy dog.

#### III. Application and Approval Process

Prior to the use of a schoolwide therapy dog at a school, the school principal must submit an application to the principal's supervisor. If the application is approved by the principal's supervisor, the application is submitted for approval to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee for approval.

#### IV. Minimum Requirements for Approval

- A. The schoolwide therapy dog must be registered annually with a certifying organization, and the handler must provide evidence of liability insurance for the handler and the schoolwide therapy dog. The Risk Management Department will provide guidance on the type of coverage and amount required, when the schoolwide therapy dog is approved by the principal's supervisor and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.
- B. The application must describe how the schoolwide therapy dog will be used at the school to promote the health and safety of students and staff.
- C. A communication plan detailing the information that will be provided to families, students, and staff about the schoolwide therapy dog, including the method by which the families, students, and staff can express concerns, must be submitted with the application.
- D. A management plan, including in the event of schoolwide emergencies, that identifies the needs of the schoolwide therapy dog and how those needs will be met must be submitted with the application.

#### V. Removal of a Schoolwide Therapy Dog

- A. The principal or principal's immediate supervisor must remove the schoolwide therapy dog from the school if;
  - 1. The handler does not maintain control of the schoolwide therapy dog.
  - 2. The schoolwide therapy dog is not housebroken.
  - 3. The schoolwide therapy dog poses a direct threat to the health or safety of students, staff, or the community.
- B. The schoolwide therapy dog shall be immediately removed from District property if the required liability insurance for the schoolwide therapy dog and the handler is not maintained.

VI. Annual Review

The use of a schoolwide therapy dog is subject to annual review and approval by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee and the Risk Management Department.

Review Responsibility: Student Services Division and Risk Management  
Department

Adopted: May 16, 2024