SERVICE ANIMALS 3.48+

I. The purpose of this policy is to implement standards related to service animals as set forth in federal and state law including

A. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);

B. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;

C. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);

D. Section 413.08, F.S.

II. A *service animal* is any dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The animal must be trained to perform tasks directly related to the person's disability.

A. Other species of animals are not considered service animals.

B. Miniature horses may be used as an alternative to dogs, with certain limitations. However, they are not included in the definition of service animal.

C. An animal whose sole function is to provide comfort, therapy, or companionship is not considered a service animal.

D. A service animal is not a pet.

III. A *task* is a minor job or piece of work that the animal performs. Tasks include

A. Guiding a person who is visually impaired or blind;

B. Alerting a person who is deaf or hard of hearing;

C. Retrieving objects;

D. Assisting with mobility or balance;

E. Pulling a wheelchair;

F. Alerting and protecting a person having a seizure; and

G. Performing other specific tasks.

IV. A service animal is personal property and may not be brought on campus without the knowledge and permission of the school or District administration. A student's need for and use of a service animal must be documented in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

V. A service animal may not interfere with the educational process of any student or pose a health or safety threat to any student, school personnel or other persons. The service animal must meet health requirements and established standards of behavior.

VI. The Superintendent shall develop guidelines for service animals on campus. Guidelines shall include but not be limited to

A. The process for requesting approval for the use of a service animal in the school or District setting;

B. Standards of behavior for the service animal;

C. Required accommodation documentation;

D. Required health certification for the animal;

E. Transportation of the service animal;

F. Emergency procedures; and

G. Orientation for school personnel and students.

VII. The District shall not assume responsibility for training, health care or daily care of any service animal.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: **1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.**

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: **413.08, 1001.32, 1001.43, 1006.07, 1006.08, F.S.**
28 CFR 35.104, 28 CFR 35.136,
28 CFR 36.104, 34 CFR 104

HISTORY: **ADOPTED: 2/09/2012**
REVISION DATE(S): _____
FORMERLY: NEW