

Service Animals in School(s)
Board of Education
Wrightstown Community School District

The Wrightstown Community School District recognizes that service animals may be a reasonable accommodation for assisting individuals with disabilities while at school or at school related events. It is the policy of the Wrightstown Community School District that service animals assisting individuals with disabilities are generally permitted in all facilities and programs of the school district as described below. Student requests for service animals at school are determined by a properly convened individual education plan (IEP) team or section 504 team.

“Service animal” is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

A service animal is the personal property of the student and/or parents. The Board does not assume responsibility for training, daily care, or healthcare of service animals. The Board does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage arising out of or relating to the presence or use of service animals on District property or at District-sponsored events.

Employee requests for disability accommodations, including requests to have a service animal at work, are determined by the superintendent through a request and review process consistent with that described in board policy regarding Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability.

Service animals accompanying other individuals with disabilities may be allowed in district facilities open to the public when necessary to allow equal access to the district’s facilities. Wisconsin law allows service dogs in training to be admitted to facilities open to the public. Service dogs in training must wear a harness OR leash and special cape and the trainer must present credentials for the dog issued by a school for dog training.

Service animals must be immunized against diseases common to that type of animal. All vaccinations must be current. Dogs must wear a rabies vaccination tag. [Wisconsin statutes 95.21(2)(f)]

State law [Wisconsin statutes 174.07(1)] requires all dogs to be licensed by the time they reach five months of age. Service dogs receive the license at no cost. [Wisconsin statutes 174.055]

Dogs must be on a leash at all times, unless impracticable or unfeasible due to owner/keeper’s disability. The owner/keeper of a service animal must be in full control

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of the animal at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of owner/keeper, including clean up after the animal defecates.

The owner/keeper of a service animal may be asked to remove the service animal from a district facility or activity if the animal's behavior or presence poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. For example, if a service animal demonstrates that it is not under the control of the student or its handler or if the service animal demonstrates that it is not housebroken, it may be removed and/or excluded from District property.

Service animals may also be excluded in areas where the presence of a service animal fundamentally alters the nature of a program or activity or is disruptive. Examples may include, but are not limited to, science labs, areas requiring protective clothing, technical education shops with power equipment and tools, and food preparation areas.

In addition, animals not covered under ADA service animal definition can be asked to leave a school district facility or activity.

Any person dissatisfied with a decision concerning a service animal can appeal that decision to the superintendent of schools.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin statutes

Sections(s) 95.21(2)(f)
174.0555
174.07
106.52(3)

CROSS REFERENCE: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

Adopted: 4/18/2012

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Revised: