110 THERAPY ANIMALS

I. PURPOSE

Independent School District No.1 prohibits discrimination against individuals based on disability, including individuals who require the assistance of a service animal. Toward that end, the District acknowledges its obligation to modify its policies to allow the use of a service animal by individuals with disabilities. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use of therapy animals within the Independent School District No.1 to support the emotional, social, and academic well-being of students and staff. This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures necessary to ensure that the presence of therapy animals in schools is safe, effective, and aligned with the district's educational goals and legal requirements.

II. GUIDELINES FOR THERAPY ANIMALS

A. Conditions for Presence of Therapy Animals: A therapy dog may be present in schools and classrooms only when the following conditions have been met:

1. The responsible registered adult handler has obtained the permission of the Superintendent of Schools, or their designee.
2. The registered adult handler must provide the following information for their therapy dog:
    a. certification/registration
    b. proof of current vaccinations
    c. proof of license (if required by city)
    d. proof of liability insurance registered
    e. ** The registered adult handler is responsible for all associated costs involved.
3. An updated copy of the above information will be given to the Superintendent and building principal annually.
4. Provisions have been made for appropriate housing and humane care of the animal as appropriate.
5. Precautions have been taken to protect the health and safety of students and staff which includes a ZERO bite policy:
6. ZERO bite policy — Any therapy dog that bites a person will not be allowed back on ISD 1 premises.
7. The therapy dog must:
    a. Be at least one year old
    b. Wear rabies tag at all times
    c. Always be on a leash
    d. Be clean and well groomed
    e. Always be under the direct supervision of a trained handler

Legal References:

28 C.F.R. § 35.136
Minn. Stat. § 363A.19
Minn. Stat. § 256C.02

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