

Policy

LIVE ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Board believes that the study of living forms of plant and animal life is an excellent way for students to observe appearances, behaviors, and adaptations, and is a legitimate part of the instructional program.

However, since the presence of live animals in the classroom presents special hazards, the Superintendent shall direct preparation of guidelines to ensure both humane treatment of living creatures and vigilant supervision of students handling them.

Domesticated animals may be brought into the classroom for educational purposes which include activities related to interest, handling experience, enrichment, in addition to a purely academic, subject matter approach, and under conditions which must ensure the safety of children and the wellbeing of the animal.

Any introduction of a live animal into the school or classroom must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in advance of the animal arriving on the school premises.

Classroom Pets

Teachers shall have the prior approval of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools before bringing any animal into the classroom. Approved class pets must be appropriately housed, humanely cared for and handled, according to the following guidelines:

- A. Only the teacher or students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals;
- B. If animals are to be kept in the classroom on days when classes are not in session, the teacher must make arrangements for their care and the safety of the animal;
- C. Teachers must be aware of any existing laws regulating sale, distribution, and handling of animals;
- D. Students and teachers shall maintain proper hygiene if handling the animal or materials associated with the animal. Hands shall be washed before and after contact with the animal;
- E. The teacher must assume responsibility for the humane proper treatment of any animal in the classroom;
- F. Teachers are to check with the school nurse regarding any known allergies existing among students in the classroom that may be affected by an animal visiting or maintained in the classroom. If allergies exist, a meeting between the school principal, teacher, nurse, and

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parent must meet to ascertain whether the presence of such an animal will pose a health risk to the student;

G. Animals are not to be transported on a school bus;

H. If an animal has bitten a staff member or student where skin has been pierced, the teacher must report the incident immediately to the principal:

1. The principal shall:
 - a. Notify the school nurse;
 - b. Notify public health authorities; and
 - c. Impound the animal for observation;
2. Public health authorities will determine the appropriate term of confinement of the animal and method of observation;

I. All experiments using live animals must have prior approval of the content area supervisor, principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and conducted in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 U.S.C. § 2131).

First Reading: September 26, 2016

Second Reading: November 3, 2016

Adopted: November 3, 2016

Possible

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| <u>Cross References:</u> | *5141 | Student health |
| | *5141.1 | Accidents |
| | *5141.2 | Illness |
| | *5141.21 | Administration of medication |
| | *5142 | Pupil Safety |
| | 6000 | Concepts and roles in instruction |
| | *6010 | Goals and objectives |
| | *6140 | Curriculum adoption |
| | *6142 | Subject fields |
| | *6145 | Extracurricular activities |

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.