

**FILE: INGA**

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**DATE ADOPTED: October 15, 2009      FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION**  
**DATE REVISED: February 20, 2014      POLICY TITLE: SERVICE/COMPANION**  
**DATE REVISED: June 22, 2020                      ANIMALS IN SCHOOL**

Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) policy is that service/companion animals assisting individuals with disabilities are generally permitted in all facilities and programs of MAPSD as described below. Student requests for service/companion animals at school are determined by a properly convened Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team or Section 504 Team.

MAPSD will comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and any other applicable laws in implementing this policy, including but not limited to, laws regarding the training of service/companion animals. MAPSD will also consider whether the animal will have a harmful impact on other students or staff members.

**Service Animals**

The district may permit students to use service animals in district facilities and at school events under the following circumstances. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) provide:

- Evidence of the medical necessity of the service animal;
- Evidence of the animal's certification or appropriate evidence of the animal's training to provide the required assistance; and
- Certification that all required animal immunizations are current.

**Companion Animals**

If parent(s)/guardian(s) believe their student requires the assistance of a companion animal to effectively participate in the educational programs, the parent(s)/ guardian(s) shall provide:

- A physician's written confirmation of the necessity of the animal;
- A veterinarian's written confirmation of the animal's appropriate immunizations; and
- A copy of the animal's certification.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall meet with the Director of Special Education and Student Services or, if the student is a student with a disability, the Director of Special Education and Student Services and the student's IEP Team or Section 504 Team, to identify other conditions under which the companion animal may present in the classroom.

Companion animals may, with administrative approval, be permitted at after school and evening co-curricular events.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times, unless impracticable or unfeasible due to owner/keeper's disability. The owner/keeper of the animal must be in control of the animal at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of the owner/keeper.

The owner/keeper of the service/companion animal must clean up after the animal.

The owner/keeper of a service/companion animal may be asked to remove the service/companion 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.

Any person dissatisfied with a decision concerning a service/companion animal can appeal that decision to the District Administrator.

If approved, a written copy of the initial approval, including the timelines for review of the decision shall be given to the parent(s)/ guardian(s) and to each of the student's teachers.

The Director of Special Education and Student Services, or, if the student is a student with a disability, the Director of Special Education and Student Services and the student's IEP Team or Section 504 Team shall periodically review the impact of the animal on the student's academic performance and/or behavior.

**CROSS REFERENCE:**

**LEGAL REFERENCE: 106.52(3)(am) Wis. Stats., IDEA, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act**