

PSCS Service Animals Policy (approved 7/22/2014)

Pioneer Springs Community School (PSCS) does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. Pioneer Springs will comply with federal and State laws regarding the use of service animals.

“Service animal” means any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability.

PSCS may inquire of the individual with a disability, his/her parents/guardian, or the owner or handler of the animal, the following to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal:

- whether the animal is required because of a disability; and
- what specific work or task that the animal has been trained to perform.

Individuals with disabilities will be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in the areas where they would normally be allowed to go.

Users/Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the service animal to others, including students, staff, and visitors and may be charged for any damage to school property caused by the animal. Individuals with service animals may be charged for damage caused by their service animal.

Individuals with a disability will not be required to pay an administrative fee or surcharge for service animals to attend events for which a fee is charged; however, individuals may be charged for their own admission for such events.

A service animal must have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless the student is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the student’s or handler’s control.

PSCS is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal or responding to the animal’s need to relieve itself.

PSCS is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the service animal or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.

Students with service animals or their handlers are expected to care for and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise his or her service animal, the parents are responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal themselves or through an appropriate handler. Issues related to the care and supervision of service animals will be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the discretion of the administrator.

The service animal must be under the control of the student or its handler at all times. PSCS may exclude or ask the individual to remove his/her animal from the premises if the animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it; if the animal is not housebroken; if the presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others; or its presence would require a fundamental alteration to the service, program, or activity of the School.

The administrator or the EC coordinator will develop and disseminate procedures to implement this policy and accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal on PSCS campus, field trips and vehicles.

Service Animal Requests

An individual with a disability may submit a written request to the EC Coordinator to bring a service animal to school.

School personnel may inquire of the individual with a disability, his/her parents/guardian, or the owner or handler of the animal, the following to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal:

- whether the animal is required because of a disability; and
- what specific work or task that the animal has been trained to perform.

For purposes of determining whether an animal is a service animal consistent with this policy, School personnel will not require information about the nature or extent of an individual's disability. Also when considering whether an animal is a service animal, School personnel will not require documentation such as proof that the animal is certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal, unless authorized by law or regulation.

The individual with a disability, or his parent, will be notified in writing within a reasonable time whether the animal is authorized to accompany the student.

The use of a service animal on School property is subject to a plan which introduces the service animal to the school environment outlines any appropriate training for staff and students regarding interactions with the service animal, and identifies any other activities as deemed necessary by the School.

A referral to a student's IEP or Section 504 team may be appropriate in some instances.

The School's approval of the use of a service animal on School property is subject to periodic review of the circumstances under which the service animal is being used, and should be reviewed at least annually.

Vaccinations/Health of Animal

1. Owners of a service dog must provide documentation, upon submission of the request and annually thereafter, that the animal is current on all appropriate vaccinations, including DHLPPC (Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus, and Coronavirus), Bordetella, and Rabies. The School may require additional vaccinations as circumstances warrant.
2. Owners of a service horse must provide documentation, upon submission of the request and annually thereafter, that the animal is current on all appropriate vaccinations, including Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test), Rabies, Tetanus, Encephelomyelitis, Rhinoneumonitis, Influenza, and Strangles. The School may require additional vaccinations as circumstances warrant. Annual documentation of vaccinations will be provided to the Director of Special Services.
3. All service animals must be spayed or neutered.
4. All service animals must be treated for and kept free of fleas, ticks, and other pests.
5. All service animals must be kept clean and groomed to avoid shedding and dander.

Obligations of Service Animal User/Owner

1. Users/Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the service animal to others, including students, staff, and visitors and may be charged for any damage to school property caused by the animal in accordance with School practice.
2. The School is not responsible for providing/training a handler or for the care of supervision of a service animal, including walking the animal or responding to the animals need to relieve itself.
3. All service animals must have a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.
4. The School is not responsible for providing a staff member to feed, exercise, or clean up after the service animal, or to provide any other care or assistance to the animal.
5. Students with service animals are expected to care and supervise their animals. In the case where a student is unable to care for or supervise his/her service animal due to age or disability, the parents are responsible, themselves or through a handler, for ensuring the service animal receives the appropriate care and supervision.
6. Issues related to the care and supervision of the service animal (i.e. presence of third-party handlers, designated area for exercise, and responsibilities for waste removal) will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the building administrator.

Exclusion/Removal

The School retains discretion to exclude or remove a service animal from its property under any of the following circumstances.

1. The animal is out of control and/or the animal's handler does not effectively control the animal's behavior.
2. The animal is not housebroken.
3. The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
4. The animal's presence or behavior fundamentally alters a service, program or activity of the School.
5. If the service animal is excluded or removed, the individual will be provided an opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

Liability

Users/Owners of service animals are liable for any harm or injury caused by the service animal to others, including students, staff, and visitors and may be charged for any damage to school property caused by the animal in accordance with School practice. The owner will hold the School harmless and indemnify the School from any such damages.