

1 **Potomac Elementary**

2  
3 **NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**

8425

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5 Service Animals

6 For the purposes of this policy, state law defines a service animal as a dog or any other animal that is  
7 individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Federal  
8 law definition of a disability includes a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental  
9 disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service  
10 animals for the purposes of this definition.

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12 The District shall permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability, according to the  
13 assessments factors as outlined in Policy 8425P, if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do  
14 work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.

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16 The Potomac School District will permit the use of service animals by an individual with a disability  
17 according to federal regulations. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly  
18 related to the handler’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting  
19 individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are  
20 deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue  
21 work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of  
22 allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance  
23 with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric  
24 and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

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26 The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being,  
27 comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

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29 The District may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if:

- 30 • The animal is out of control and the animal’s handler does not take effective action to control it;  
31 or  
32 • The animal is not housebroken

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34 The District is not responsible for the care or supervision of the service animal.

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36 Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of  
37 the District’s facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or  
38 invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.

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40 Cross Reference: Policy 8425P Procedure for allowance of service animals  
41 Policy 8425F Service Animals in District Facilities Form  
42 Policy 2161 Special Education  
43 Policy 2162 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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45 Legal Reference: 28 CFR 35.136 Service Animals  
46 28 CFR 35.104 Definitions  
47 49-4-203(2), MCA Definitions

48 Policy History:

49 Adopted on: October 9, 2012

50 Reviewed on:

51 Revised on: