

TRI-TOWNSHIP CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION

POLICY

REGARDING

SERVICE ANIMALS

Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation (TTCSC) is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to accommodate individuals with disabilities accompanied by a service animal in its corporation buildings, classrooms, and at school functions. The following policy applies to all service animals utilized by students and adults in the corporation.

I. Definitions

- a. A “service animal” is a dog, or in special circumstances a miniature horse, that is
Individually trained to take specific action or perform tasks to assist an individual with a disability. The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person’s disability. A “service animal” does not include any species of animal, whether wild or domestic, other than a dog or miniature horse.
- b. A “companion animal” is an animal that provides solely emotional support, well-being, therapy, comfort, or companionship. A “companion animal” does not meet the definition of a “service animal”.
- c. An “individual with a disability” is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such impairment.
- d. A “tether” is a harness, leash, or other tether.

II. Policy

- a. The Corporation permits the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability. Individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by their service animal in all areas of corporation facilities and school functions where the individual is otherwise permitted to be. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability.
- b. Prior to bringing the service animal to school, a Service Animal Registration Form must be completed for all individuals with a disability who wish to be

accompanied by a service animal. The corporation requests the Form be completed and delivered at least ten (10) instructional days in advance to bringing the service animal to school, in order to prepare other staff and students for the service animal's arrival. In completing the Service Animal Registration Form, the individual or his/her parents shall explain that the service animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the service animal has been trained to perform.

- c. The corporation requests that the individual with a disability and/or his/her parents provide documentation supporting that the service animal is required because of a disability and that the animal has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks to assist an individual with a disability.
- d. The corporation is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal. At all times, a service animal shall be under the control of its handler. If the person accompanied by the service animal is unable to handle the service animal appropriately, the parent shall provide for care and supervision of the animal (either by the parent or a third party individual accompanying the animal). The parent or third party individual accompanying the animal shall be subject to all corporation policies and procedures.
- e. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler 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 task, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). The handler may not allow the service animal to wander away from him/her and must maintain control of the animal, even if it is retrieving an item at a distance from the handler.
- f. If a service animal is not housebroken, if the service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, if the service animal behaves in a way that poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others or has a history of such behavior, or if the service animal's presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity, the Corporation may request that the animal be removed from the premises.
- g. The handler is responsible for caring for and supervising the service animal, which includes toileting, feeding, watering, grooming, and veterinary care. The handler should encourage the animal to use marked toileting areas. .
- h. Service animals must be kept free of fleas and ticks. Service animals must be appropriately clean and groomed.
- i. Companion animals are not permitted in corporation facilities.
- j. All persons are prohibited by Indiana law from knowingly or intentionally interfering with the actions of a service animal or striking, tormenting, injuring or otherwise mistreating a service animal while the service animal is engaged in assisting an impaired person in navigation, assistance in

performing daily activities, or alert signals regarding the onset of the person's medical condition.

- k. The owner and/or individual accompanied by a service animal is liable for any damage, harm, or injury caused by the service animal to other students, staff, visitors, and/or property. An individual with a disability may be charged for damage, harm, or injury caused by his/her service animal.
- l. Service animals are subject to local animal control and public health requirements regarding vaccines, licenses, and registration. To protect the health, safety, and welfare of other students and adults, the individual with a disability and/or his/her parents must provide the Corporation annual proof of common vaccinations for dogs.
- m. The corporation will make a case by case assessment of requests to use a miniature horse with an individual with a disability. Such requests can be made to the Superintendent.

Legal Citations:

29 U.S.C. § 794
34 C.F.R. 104.12

42 U.S.C. § 12131
28 C.F.R. 35.136

I.C. 16-32-3 *et. seg.*

I.C. 35-46-3-11.5

345 I.A.C. 1-5

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