

Service Animals in Schools

The Montesano School Board of Directors acknowledges its responsibility to permit students and/or adults with disabilities to be accompanied by a “service animal” as required by federal laws and Washington State’s law against discrimination. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses and at school activities.

A “service animal” means an animal that is trained for the purpose of assisting or accommodating a disabled person’s sensory, mental or physical disability.

The parent/guardian of a student who believes the student needs to bring a service animal to school or an employee who wishes to bring a service animal to school, must submit a written request to the building principal. The building principal, in consultation with the Section 504 coordinator or director of special services, as appropriate, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school.

Cross Reference:	Board Policy 2029	Animals as Part of the Instructional Program
	2161	Education of Students with Disabilities
	2162	Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
	3210	Nondiscrimination
	5010	Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action

Legal References:	American Disabilities Act (ADA), Revised Title II Regulations, §35 Service animals	
	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	
	RCW 28A.642	Discrimination Prohibition
	RCW 49.60.040	Definitions
	WAC 162-26	Public accommodations, disability discrimination
	WAC 392-145-021(3)	General Operating Requirements
	WAC 392-172A-01035	Child with a Disability or Student eligible for Special Education
	WAC 392-172A-01155 (3)	Related Services
	WAC 392-190	Equal Educational Opportunity – unlawful discrimination prohibited