

Instruction

Library Materials

Library materials shall be selected relative to the needs, interests, and abilities of the pupils students in the school. The school librarian shall attempt to stimulate and guide reading and teach the effective use of the library.

The library shall have as its basic objectives the provision and servicing of selected materials which aid the individual in the pursuit of education, information, or research, and in the creative use of leisure time. Since financial limitations must be considered, the library recognizes that its major concerns must be positive contributions toward the development of the individual as a citizen and the development of his/her knowledge, tolerance and concern. The school library shall be operated to direct the individual towards a continuous learning process through the use of books and related materials. The school shall attempt to teach students to read critically and with understanding and shall not attempt unqualified censorship efforts. The library shall attempt to develop an appreciation of a good use of leisure time and to promote personal development and social well being.

The library, recognizing its responsibility to develop adult citizens for whom the use of books and other media of communication is a necessary and natural part of intelligent living, shall provide special services for young readers by making selective collections and providing skilled individual and group guidance.

In evaluating a book or other instructional material, it shall be judged in its entirety and not on isolated pages or parts. Controversial matters shall not in themselves require automatic rejection of the material considered. However, no student shall be required to read a book or use instructional material which he/she or his/her parent/guardian find offensive for any ethical or religious reasons.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-182 Contents of textbooks and other general instructional materials.

Policy adopted: September 8, 2010

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Andover, Connecticut

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom

No student shall bring any live animal, whether pet or wild, to any classroom.

Teachers may bring and maintain goldfish or tropical fish in suitable bowls or tanks, but turtles, birds, snakes, or other animals which might present a health hazard shall not be allowed.

Seeing-eye (Guide), hearing and service dogs are permitted on school buses and in school facilities to perform the functions for which they are trained. Such animal must wear a harness or an orange-colored leash and collar which makes it readily identifiable as a licensed guide dog.

The School Principal, prior to authorizing a program involving the exhibition of wild animals, shall request and review the following documents:

- Exhibitor's license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (mammals only).
- An official interstate health certificate signed by a veterinarian and dated no earlier than 60 days prior to entry into Connecticut (mammals only).
- Permit from the DEP Wildlife Division authorizing the exhibitor to import or possess a wild bird, wild mammal, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate (where applicable).
- Exhibitor's certificate of liability insurance to cover the specific event (typically for \$1 million).
- List and description of the animals to be exhibited.
- Exhibitor's written statement that describes how the animals will be exhibited and how the animals will be securely confined when not on display. The statement should address safety concerns to prevent wild animals from having direct contact with people and to preclude the public from approaching wild animals.

(cf. 6163.32 - Service Animals)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures
 46a-42 Mobility impaired person
 46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation, admittance to
 Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20 U.S.C. 706(7)(b)
 American Disability Act of 1989

Policy adopted: September 8, 2010

ANDOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Andover, Connecticut

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom

Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs)

The Board of Education does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. The District will comply with Connecticut law concerning the rights of persons with guide or assistance dogs and with federal law and will permit such animals on school premises and on school transportation.

Connecticut law requires that a specially trained dog be allowed to accompany a blind, mental or physically disabled person in housing, in public accommodations, and on all common carriers. The dog must be identified by wearing an orange-colored harness or leash and in the direct custody of the individual. Public accommodations include public buildings and any other facility offered to the public.

For purposes of this policy, a “guide dog” or “assistance dog” includes a dog being trained as a guide dog or assistance dog and “person training a dog as a guide dog for a blind person or a dog to assist a deaf or mobility impaired person” means a person who is employed by and authorized to engage in designated training activities by a guide dog organization or assistance dog organization that complies with the criteria for membership in a professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools and who carries photographic identification indicating such employment and authorization.

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that individuals with disabilities cannot perform themselves. Service animals are not pets. There are several kinds of service animals that assist individuals with disabilities. Examples include but are not limited to, animals that:

- assist individuals who are blind or have severe sight impairments as “seeing eye dogs” or “guide dogs;”
- alert individuals with hearing impairments to sounds;
- pull wheelchairs or carry and pick-up items for individuals with mobility impairments; and
- assist individuals with mobility impairments with balance.

The District shall not assume or take custody or control of, or responsibility for, any assistance dog or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or person having custody and control of the dog shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the service animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.

If, in the opinion of the School Principal or authorized designee, any assistance dog is out of control in the school setting or during District transportation, the matter shall be immediately reported to local law enforcement, and the permission granted pursuant to this policy may be immediately revoked. The parent or guardian of the student having custody and control of the dog will be required to remove the dog from District premises immediately.

Instruction

Live Animals in the Classroom

Service Animals (Guide or Assistance Dogs) (continued)

If any student or staff member assigned to the classroom in which an assistance dog is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the dog, the person having custody and control of the dog will be required to remove the dog to a different location designated by the Building Principal or designee and an alternative plan will be developed with appropriate District staff. Such plan could include the reassignment of the person having custody and control of the dog to a different classroom assignment. This will also apply if an individual on school transportation suffers an allergic reaction. In this case, an alternate plan will be developed in coordination with appropriate school, District, and transportation staff including the involvement of the parents/guardian of the students.

When a student will be accompanied by an assistance dog at school or in other District facilities on a regular basis, such staff member or such student's parent or guardian, as well as the dog's owner and any other person who will have custody and control of the dog will be required to sign a document stating that they have read and understood the foregoing.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing procedures to accommodate a student's use of an assistance dog in District facilities and on school transportation vehicles.

(cf. 6163.3 – Live Animals in the Classroom)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.
 46a-42 Mobility impaired person
 46a-44 through 46a-64 Public accommodations and transportation,
 admittance to. (Access of guide and assistance dogs to modes of public
 transportation and in places of public accommodation)
 Section 504 and the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20
 U.S.C. 706(7)(b)
 American Disability Act of 1989

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