

POLICY 3211: ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education will make every reasonable effort to maintain school grounds in a condition that is safe and appropriate for the activities of students and staff. Pets and other domestic animals may pose a safety risk, and are therefore restricted from being on school property as defined by this policy.

No live domestic animals may be brought into school district buildings or permitted on playgrounds, sports fields, athletic tracks, or tennis courts at any time throughout the calendar year . When students are not present before or after school hours or during athletic events or practices, dog owners may walk their pets on a leash on school grounds and sidewalks used for normal pedestrian traffic on and around school district property. Pet owners are expected to clean up and properly dispose of pet waste.

Exemptions shall be allowed under the following circumstances:

1. Animals under the control of public safety officials shall have unlimited access to district property for exercise, educational, and public relations purposes, or as otherwise permitted by state and federal law.
2. Animals trained and certified to be used as assistance animals, including service animals as may be required by individuals with disabilities, and therapy dogs that have been authorized by the Superintendent of Schools or designee. (See policy 3220)
3. Animals that may be used in the course of study or for educational purposes, subject to advance approval by the building principal. (See policy 8250)
4. Pets are allowed on the walking paths around the athletic fields at the Jefferson sports complex, provided the pets are leashed at all times, and that students are not using the fields.

The presence of animals in school buildings or on school property shall be subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control. A pet owner who allows his/her animal to run freely on school grounds, or who brings or permits his/her animal on school grounds without permission, will be considered to be trespassing and may be reported to law enforcement.