

POLICY

2015

8312

Instruction

SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL (Instructional Purposes)

Animals are part of our daily lives and learning about animals is an important part of our education. However, the Board of Education recognizes that animals can pose serious threats to the health and safety of our staff and our students. Such risks include allergies, salmonella, and even the transmission of zoonotic diseases (animal diseases transmitted to humans). Recognizing these risks, it is the Principal's responsibility to ensure that there is an appropriate educational purpose if any animal is brought into and/or housed in a classroom. Animals are not to be transported on school buses with the exception of animals certified to assist persons with disabilities.

Approval of the Building Principal is required prior to bringing any animal to the campus for instructional purposes. The animal's owner will be responsible for the proper control of such animal(s).

It shall be the responsibility of the principal and/or his/her designee to develop building-specific regulations to safeguard student contact with animals, both in formal classroom study and in informal, less structured contacts.

Study and Care of Animals

It shall be the responsibility of the Principal or his/her designee to develop a plan of care for those animals housed in school in the event of an emergency school closing or in the event the animals remain in the classroom on days when school is not in session. Only the teacher or those students designated by the teacher are to handle the animals.

Dissection of Animals

The District will give reasonable notice to all students enrolled in a course that includes the dissection of an animal and students' parent(s)/legal guardian(s) about their rights to seek an alternate project to dissection based on moral or religious objection provided, however, that such objection is substantiated in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students who perform alternative projects shall not be penalized.

Instruction in the Humane Treatment of Animals

Students must receive instruction in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals that are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 United States Code (USC) Section 12101 et. seq.
Education Law Section 809
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 100.2(c)(8)
Adopted: 11/14/06
Revised: 7/12/11