



SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

Mount Vernon Schools 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 requires the support of a service animal at school, or an employee who requires a service animal at school, shall submit a written request to the building principal. The building principal, in consultation with the designated regional assistant superintendent and Section 504 coordinator or director of special services, as appropriate, will determine whether or not to permit the service animal in school.

Service animals in training are permitted access to public areas of Mount Vernon Schools such as the gymnasium during a sporting event where any member of the public is permitted to attend. With permission of the superintendent or designee, service animals in training are permitted in private areas of the school, where the general public is not permitted, such as classrooms while school is in session. Training of service animals is permitted by approval of the superintendent or designee.

The superintendent will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Cross References:	<u>Procedure 2030P</u>	Service Animals in Schools
	<u>Policy 2161</u>	Special Education and Related Services for Eligible Students
	<u>Policy 2162</u>	Education of Students with Disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
	<u>Policy 3210</u>	Nondiscrimination
	<u>Policy 5010</u>	Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action

Legal References:	<u>American Disabilities Act (ADA), Revised Title II Regulations, Service Animals, 75 C.F.R. § 36.104</u>	
	<u>Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973</u>	
	<u>RCW 28A.642</u>	Discrimination prohibition
	<u>RCW 49.60.040</u>	Definitions

RCW 49.60.215

Unfair practices of places of
public resort, accommodation,
assemblage, amusement—
Trained dog guides and service
animals

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