

1 2520 INSTRUCTION

2 Animals/Pets in Schools

3 The District recognizes that there are medical and physical dangers associated with animals, both wild and
4 domesticated, in the classroom and/or on school property. The District also recognizes that under proper
5 conditions, animals can be an effective teaching aid. The following guidelines are adopted regarding all
6 animals (mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, fish, insects, etc.) in the classroom or on school property.

- 7 • Animals will be allowed to be housed in classrooms only for specified and appropriate educational
8 purpose for the time necessary to achieve the educational goal. The District will permit the use of
9 service animals by an individual with a disability according to federal regulations and GFPS Board
10 Policy 8425—Service Animals.
- 11 • Under no circumstances are animals to be transported on school buses.
- 12 • All requests to have animals in the classroom or on school property must have prior approval from
13 the supervising teacher and building principal. The request must identify type of animal/pet,
14 educational purpose, length of activity, and plan for the care of the animal. The principal has the
15 discretion to permit or deny the presence of animals.
- 16 • Students and teachers with allergies must receive special consideration before animals are
17 brought into the school. Prior to any exposure to animals in school, the teacher shall research to
18 ensure that any condition such as allergies will not be exacerbated by exposure to animals. See
19 Policy 8302R regarding animals in the Classroom and Indoor Air Quality for more information.
- 20 • All requests to take field trips involving animals must be submitted to the principal in writing. The
21 principal shall be guided by the district policy on field trips (Board Policy 2320) and shall also take
22 into consideration any known allergies among the students. (Board Policy 2320)
- 23 • Domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, primates, or livestock, may be allowed in schools for
24 educational purposes, but only with proof of all appropriate vaccinations and/or current rabies
25 vaccination. Any domesticated mammal that is too young to be immunized for rabies will not be
26 allowed.
- 27 • Wild animals (e.g., skunks, raccoons, badgers, lynx, bobcats, bats, elpha, coyotes, or fox) shall not
28 be allowed unless under the control of an individual trained in the care and management of the
29 animals (e.g., zookeepers, docents, veterinarians, etc.)
- 30 • All animals brought for exhibit must be restrained by the owner/handler.
- 31 • Poisonous animals are not allowed.
- 32 • Each teacher is responsible for the proper supervision and control of students under his/her
33 direction whenever there is an exhibit or activity involving animals in the school.
- 34 • It is the responsibility of the teacher to provide a plan of care for classroom-housed animals
35 including care on weekends, holidays, and during emergency closure.
- 36 • No animals will be allowed free range in district facilities or on district property.
- 37 • The principal must be notified as soon as possible if an individual is bitten by an animal or any
38 incident occurs which could have an adverse effect on physical or emotional health.
- 39 • The principal must notify parent/guardians of involved students. The principal must also contact
40 their immediate supervisor.

- 1 Cross Reference:
- 2 2320 Field Trips, Excursions and Outdoor Education
- 3 2320R Field Trips
- 4 8302 Indoor Air Quality
- 5 8302R Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality
- 6 8425 Service Animals
- 7 8425F Service Animals Form Policy History

- 8 Policy History:
- 9 Adopted on: November 9, 2015
- 10 Revised on: November 14, 2016