

# MISSION VIEW PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

## SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY

The Board of Directors of Mission View Public Charter School allows the use of service animals, as permitted under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A service animal is a working animal, not a pet. The ADA requires public accommodations to modify their “no pets” policies to allow the use of a service animal by a person with a disability only. Therapy or companion animals, including pets, are not classified as service animals.

### **1. Service Animal Plan**

- a. A Service Animal Plan shall be constructed to document the use of the service animal, which shall be included in the student’s IEP or Section 504 plan, as applicable. The Service Animal Plan shall specify which service the animal provides, i.e., retrieving items, warning of an oncoming seizure, etc.
- b. A copy of the Service Animal Plan shall be uploaded to the Student Information System (SIS) and a copy shall be provided to the student and/or parent/guardian(s). Staff will be made aware of the accommodations for the use of a service animal.
- c. The Service Animal Plan must be in place and signed by the student and/or parent/guardian(s) (minor students only) PRIOR to allowing the service animal on school grounds.

### **2. Student/Handler’s Responsibilities**

- a. The student/handler is responsible for the care and supervision of his or her service animal. The service animal is expected to behave in an acceptable way. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, uncontrolled barking, jumping on other people, or running away from the student/handler. The student/handler may be asked to remove the service animal in these instances as directed by school staff.
- b. The student/handler must maintain control of the service animal. Maintaining control of the service animal should occur with the use of a harness, leash, or other tether unless these devices interfere with the service animal’s work or the student/handler’s disability prevents use of these devices.
- c. The service animal must be housebroken. The school may charge the student or parent/guardian(s) if the service animal causes damage to school property.
- d. The service animal shall be vaccinated and licensed in accordance with state and local laws. Proof of vaccination, including rabies, and a license shall be required PRIOR to allowing the service animal on school grounds, and annually thereafter.

**3. Permitted Areas.** The service animal will be permitted to accompany the student to all areas of the school facility where students/employees are normally allowed. A student with a service animal will not be segregated from other students/employees.

**4. Reaction/Response of Others.** Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to students using service animals. The student who uses a service animal and other individuals who must be in the same room should be accommodated by assigning them, if possible, to different locations within the room or school facility.

## **SERVICE ANIMAL PLAN**

*To be completed by school administrator or designee during a meeting with student and parent/guardian(s).  
A copy of the Service Animal Policy shall be provided to student and parent/guardian(s).  
The Service Animal Plan shall be reviewed annually.*

|                                      |                                  |                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Student Name:</b>                 | <b>DOB:</b>                      | <b>Date:</b>    |
| <b>Charter Name:</b>                 | <b>Site:</b>                     | <b>Teacher:</b> |
| <b>Does student have a 504 Plan?</b> | <b>Does student have an IEP?</b> |                 |

1. **Health History, Diagnosis, and/or Condition warranting animal support:**
  
2. **Desired Outcomes: (How will having the animal's presence assist the student?)**
  
3. **Student Signs/Symptoms to watch for:**
  
4. **How will student address undesired animal behavior?**
  
5. **How will student address other students and/or staff approaching the animal?**

## **SIGNATURES**

**\*Signature indicates receipt and understanding of Service Animal Policy and Plan\***

Administrator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_