

## **ANIMALS IN CLASSROOMS**

The School Board recognizes the use of animals as part of the curriculum can be a valuable educational tool, but needs to be balanced against the needs of students and staff with allergies.

This Policy applies to animals brought on District property by District staff for educational or curricular purposes. This Policy does not apply to service animals or fish in kept aquariums in classrooms.

With the exception of service animals, no animal shall be permitted in a MSD Wayne building, on District property, or at a District-sponsored event without prior written approval of the Superintendent or his or her designee (typically, the building principal will act as designee). However, pets or companion/comfort animals are not permitted on District property at any time. When requested by a District teacher or staff member, the Superintendent or his or her designee shall determine if bringing an animal into the building/classroom is appropriate for educational purposes.

Even if an animal has been previously approved, the Superintendent or his or her designee may revoke permission for the animal's presence at any time for any reason.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative guidelines to address animals in the classroom, including providing notice to parents/guardians of students and other staff, addressing students and staff with allergies, and hygiene and upkeep of animals.

MSD of Wayne Township, Marion County, Indiana

Adopted: August 2, 1993

Revised: February 27, 2012

Revised: April 10, 2017