

## Kimberly School District Policy

### **Instruction 2380 Trained School Dogs**

Kimberly School District supports the use of trained dogs in the schools for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy. Examples of activities that students may engage in with a trained dog include petting and/or hugging the dog, speaking to the dog, giving the dog simple commands that the dog is trained to respond to, and reading to the dog. School trained dogs may also be used as an aide to therapy with the school counselor, in meetings with parents and/or academic teams, as well as in activities that provide positive behavior interventions and supports. Activities are not limited to those listed above and the building administrator will approve any and all activities in which school trained dogs participate in.

Having appropriately trained school dogs at Kimberly School District is a goal-driven intervention which is directed and/or delivered by a building administrator or designee and is meant to improve physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive function of students in the schools. It is the intent of this policy to encourage handlers to collaborate on training in order to use consistent commands/language when possible and to have consistent behavioral expectations. There will be no more than 4 trained school dogs per school building.

KSD trained school dogs will be individually trained and will have one of the following minimum certification pathways:

- Proof of licensure of AKC Good Citizenship Certification
- Proof of licensure of AKC Community Canine (must be completed within one year of the dog being in the school)

OR

- Proof of completion of Pet Partners Therapy Animal Handlers Course

\*Trained school dogs are not the same as “emotional support animals” or “service animals” as referred to in policy 2375. They can be registered Therapy Dogs if handler decides to pursue this certification. The term “Trained School Dogs” will be utilized to refer to any approved dog working in KSD.

The handler will be a KSD administrator/counselor/or other designated school district employee who has been trained, evaluated, and registered with the trained dog to provide animal assisted activities and animal assisted interactions within the schools. The handler shall assume full responsibility for the trained dog's care, behavior, and suitability for interacting with students and others in the schools while the trained dog is on school property.

The following information will be kept current and on file at the school building office:

- Proof from a licensed veterinarian that the trained dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases common to dogs. Such vaccinations will be kept current and up to date at all times.
- Documentation of training route (ex: AKC certifications, Pet Partners certificate, or documentation of other training provided)
- A KSD approved plan for each individual School Trained Dog. This will have details pertaining to individual dog and handler teams and will include elements such as schedules, activities/interventions, care, toileting plans, etc.

### **Trained Dog Standards and Procedures:**

**Training:** If the handler is training a puppy for the potential use of being a trained school dog, handler and building administrator will determine the amount of appropriate time the puppy is in the school.

**Health and Vaccinations:** The handler shall submit proof from a licensed veterinarian that the trained dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases common to dogs.

**Identification:** The handler and trained dog shall wear appropriate identification such as a tag, collar, bandana, or service-type vest.

**Designated Areas:** The trained dog will be assigned to designated areas appropriate to the dogs training. Dogs must be on a 4' to 6' leash in hallways and other common areas. Dogs should be on leash at all times unless in the counselor's office, administrator's office, or other areas pre-determined by an approved KSD Trained School Dog plan.

**Health and Safety:** The handler shall ensure that the trained dog does not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at the school and that the trained dog is brought to KES only when properly groomed, bathed, free of illness or injury and of the temperament appropriate for working with children and others in the school.

**Supervision and Care:** The handler shall be responsible for the supervision and humane care of the trained dog, including any feeding, exercising, and cleaning up after the trained dog while the trained dog is in the school building or on school property. The handler shall not leave the trained dog unsupervised or alone on school property at any time.

Allergies and Aversions: The handler shall remove the trained dog to a separate area, as designated by the school administrator, in such instances where any student or school employee who suffers dog allergies or aversions is present. Parents may “Opt out” of having their child interact with school trained dogs. While every attempt will be made to honor the need or choice of separation between students and school trained dogs, there may be moments (ex: during transitions) where close proximity is likely.

Exclusions or removal from school property for dogs:

A trained school dog may be excluded from school property if an administrator determines that (1) The handler does not have control of the trained dog at any time, (2) The trained dog presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school, including other trained dogs on the school premises, or (3) the trained dog’s presence otherwise interferes with the educational program. The handler shall immediately remove the dog from school property when instructed to do so by a school or district administrator.

Exclusions for handlers:

A school trained dog handler may be excluded from program participation if an administrator determines that (1) A handler has acted in a way that is intentionally harmful to the dog’s health and safety, (2) if the handler’s implementation of the program interferes with the handler’s contractual duties, (3) if the handler’s implementation of the program is not meeting the identified needs or aligning with the goals of the trained school dog program, or (4) any intentional violation of this policy or the individual trained school dog’s plan.