

**Animals in Schools**

**Policy No. 402.20**

Assistance Dogs are specially trained to assist children and adults who have a physical or developmental disabilities. The use of assistance dogs is a recognized aid to children and adults with special needs. These trained dogs will be allowed in the school, on school district property and on school district buses when it has been determined that the assistance dog helps the student to have equal access to the services, programs or activities offered by the school district. The Board of Education supports the use of therapy dogs in schools to support learners with trauma or anxiety. In recognition of their use, balanced with the running of a school, one trained therapy animal may be housed in a school. These animals must be trained and under the supervision of an adult at all times.

The Board of Education supports small animals in the classroom that stimulate learning and teach students about responsibility and care.