

SUBJECT: ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Board of Education recognizes that animals have educational value in the school setting, but only under conditions that insure the safety and well-being of the students, staff, and the animals. Live animals in the classroom provide opportunities to learn about diversity, habitat, humane care, animal development, reproduction, and behavior. A teacher must have a clear understanding and commitment to the responsible care of living animals before making any decision to use them for educational study. The teacher should acquire knowledge on care appropriate to the species including housing, food, exercise, and appropriate placement of the animals at the conclusion of the study.

Prior approval of the principal must be obtained before consideration is given to an animal residing in the school. The principal and requesting teacher will consider all aspects of the animals being considered prior to assessing health risks to students and staff members who will be using the classroom space in which the animal will reside.

Upon the approval of the principal, the requesting teacher will survey all students and staff that will be using the classroom space pertaining to potential allergy and health risks. This can be accomplished through a written notice regarding the potential classroom resident animal and requesting concerns should be made known to the teacher. Student health records are also a source of needed information and are to remain confidential to other students and staff.

To minimize exposure to animal allergens, school officials should make sure that:

1. No student or staff member with a known allergy to an animal be allowed to handle that particular animal.
2. Only non-allergic persons be designated to perform animal clean-up responsibilities.
3. If at any time an individual exhibits adverse reactions to an animal, the animal must be removed from the classroom.

The building principal will develop and update written building procedures for the proper care of resident and visiting animals.

Adopted: June 9, 2009