**Title**: **4280 Service Animals in School**

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| ADA  PHRA | **4280 Service Animals in School**  This policy establishes guidelines for the presence and use of service animals in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Pennsylvania state laws. It ensures that individuals with disabilities are provided equal access to school facilities and programs while maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all students and staff.  This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors.  **Policy Statement:**   1. **Definition of a Service Animal:**    * A service animal is defined under the ADA as a dog or other animal that is individually trained to perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The tasks must be directly related to the person’s disability.    * Emotional support, therapy, or companion animals do not qualify as service animals under this policy. 2. **Permitted Access:**    * Individuals with disabilities are permitted to bring their service animals into all areas of the school where students, staff, and visitors are normally allowed, except where their presence poses a legitimate safety or health concern.    * Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless such devices interfere with the animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents the use of these devices. 3. **Licensing, Vaccination, and Control:**    * All service animals must be licensed and vaccinated in accordance with Pennsylvania state and local regulations.    * The handler must ensure that the service animal is housebroken and under control at all times, either through a harness, leash, tether, or effective voice or signal control.    * The school is not responsible for the feeding, grooming, or veterinary care of the service animal. 4. **Verification and Inquiries:**    * School staff may ask only two questions to determine if the animal is a service animal:      1. Is the animal required because of a disability?      2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?    * Staff cannot ask about the individual’s disability, require medical documentation, or demand proof of training. 5. **Exclusions and Removal:**    * A service animal may be removed from school premises if:      1. It is out of control, and the handler does not take effective action to control it.      2. It is not housebroken.      3. It poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.    * In such cases, the individual with the disability will still be granted access to school services and programs without the animal. 6. **Conflicting Disabilities and Accommodations:**    * If another individual on school premises has a medical condition or allergy that is affected by the presence of a service animal, the school will make reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of both individuals. 7. **Misrepresentation of Service Animals:**    * Pennsylvania law prohibits the fraudulent misrepresentation of pets as service animals. Any suspected violations will be reviewed, and appropriate actions will be taken in compliance with state law. 8. **Implementation and Compliance:**    * The school administration is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and providing necessary training to staff. |