

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind
NON INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Service Animals

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For the purpose of this policy, state law defines a service animal as a dog or any other animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Federal law definition of a disability includes a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind shall permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability, according to the assessments factors as outlined in Policy 8425P, if the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will permit the use of service animals by an individual with a disability according to state and federal regulations. Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will honor requests for service animals in accordance with the applicable Section 504 or Special Education policy adopted by the Board of Public Education. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability.

Example of work or tasks performed by the service animal to accommodate an identified disability include, but are not limited to , assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing nonviolent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if:

- The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
- The animal is not housebroken

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind is not responsible for the care or supervision of the service animal.

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant are allowed to go.

Cross Reference:	8428P	Procedure for allowance of service animals
	2161	Special Education
	2162	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Legal Reference:	28 CFR 35.136	Service Animals
	28 CFR 35.104	Definitions
	49-4-203(2), MCA	Definitions

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on: