

1 Joint School District No. 2, Meridian School District
2 Meridian Technical Charter High School, Inc. has adopted West Ada's (Joint School District No. 2) policy.
3 SCHOOL – COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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5 Series 1000

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7 Policy Title Service Animals in Schools Code No. 1003.50

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9 Joint School District No. 2 acknowledges its responsibility to make reasonable
10 accommodations to permit persons with disabilities to be accompanied by a service
11 animal in all areas where the public is normally allowed to go, including in its school
12 buildings, classrooms, and at school functions.

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14 DEFINITIONS

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16 “Handler” means an individual with a disability or another individual who has been
17 designated to control the service animal and attend to its needs.

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19 “Miniature horse” means a very small horse generally ranging in height from 24 to 34
20 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weighing between 70 to 100 pounds. A
21 miniature horse will be allowed to act as a service animal where reasonable.

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23 “Service animal” means any dog (or, in specific circumstance, a miniature horse (see
24 “Miniature Horses” section below)) that is individually trained to do work or perform
25 tasks for an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric,
26 intellectual or other mental disability. No other species of animal, whether wild or
27 domestic, will be permitted as a service animal. Animals whose sole function is to
28 provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals for the purposes
29 of this definition.

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

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40 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

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42 Staff will not inquire about the nature or extent of a person's disability. Staff may not
43 make inquiries about a service animal when it is readily apparent that the animal is
44 trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the dog is
45 observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling an individual's
46 wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an
47 observable mobility disability).

48 When it is not readily apparent to staff what service the animal provides, staff may make
49 the following two inquiries to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal:

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51 1. Staff may ask if the animal is required because of a disability; and

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53 2. Staff may ask what work or task has the animal been trained to perform.

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55 Staff may not require documentation regarding a service animal, such as proof that the
56 animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal; licensed as a pet; or
57 vaccinated. Staff may not ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work
58 or task. The district will not charge surcharges for a service animal.

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60 HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

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62 1. The handler must be in full control of the service animal at all times.

63 a. Service animals must have a harness, leash, or tether unless these devices
64 interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance or the
65 individual's disability prevents the use of these devices, in which case the
66 individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or
67 other effective controls.

68 2. The handler must care for and supervise the service animal at all times.

69 a. The district is not responsible for providing a staff member to walk the
70 service animal, respond to the animal's need to relieve itself, or to provide
71 any other care or assistance to the animal.

72 b. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to
73 care for or supervise his or her service animal, the parent/guardian is
74 responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal.

75

76 MINIATURE HORSES

77 A miniature horse will be permitted as a service animal where reasonable. Staff may
78 make the same inquiry and ask the same questions when it is not apparent what services a
79 miniature horse provides, as set forth in the "Staff Inquires" section of this policy.

80 The following four assessment factors will be used in determining whether a miniature
81 horse can be reasonably accommodated in school buildings, in classrooms, or at school
82 functions:

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84 1. The miniature horse is housebroken.

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- 86 2. The handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse.
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- 88 3. The facility can accommodate the miniature horse’s type, size, and weight.
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- 90 4. The miniature horse’s presence will compromise legitimate safety requirements
- 91 necessary for the safe operation of the facility.
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93 EXCLUSION OF SERVICE ANIMALS

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95 A school administrator may exclude a service animal or ask an individual with a
96 disability to remove a service animal from a school building, a classroom, or from a
97 school function if any one of the following circumstances occurs:

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- 99 1. The service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action
- 100 to control it.
- 101 2. The service animal is not housebroken.
- 102 3. The service animal’s presence would fundamentally alter the nature of the service,
- 103 program, or activity.
- 104 4. The service animal presents an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of
- 105 students, staff, or other individuals.

106 If a service animal is excluded, the individual with a disability will be given the
107 opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service
108 animal on the premises and/or may be offered other alternatives to the service animal that
109 are effective in performing the functions required with respect to the individual’s
110 disability.

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114 Date of Adoption:
115 06/21/11

Legal Reference:

116
117 Date of Revision:
118 5/13/14

Americans with Disabilities Act, 28
C.F.R.Part 35 (as amended 2010)
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794