

SERVICE ANIMALS

The Board of Education permits the use of a service animals by any individual with a disability, whether student, employee or visitor, who is qualified to attend or participate in any event or activity held on school premises and sponsored by the Oxford Academy and Central School District (the District).

The Superintendent or Designee will create procedures, regulations and/or building specific rules regarding the use of service animals on school grounds by individuals with disabilities that comply with Federal and New York State law.

Requests for accommodations, or more information regarding service animals, should be directed to:

Superintendent of Schools

Service Animals

Service animal means any dog, or in particular limited circumstances a miniature horse, that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Work/Tasks of the Service Animal

The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. 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 purposes of this definition.

Other Function

Animals whose function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or promote emotional well-being, are not service animals as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Psychiatric service animals that have been trained to take a specific action to help or assist their handler to avoid an anxiety attack or reduce its effects, however, may qualify as a service animal.

Other Species

Other species of animals, not specifically referred to herein, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purpose of this policy.

Adopted: 7/8/24
