



**Approved: May 2021**

**Review:**

## **611 EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS POLICY**

### **I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Spero Academy permits the presence of Emotional Support Animals in the school and on the school grounds. The goal for the Spero Academy Emotional Support Animal is to help students with social, communication and emotional behavior deficits. The Emotional Support Animal will be used at Spero Academy to support the following:

- A. Curriculum-related projects and activities
- B. Therapeutic purposes
- C. Behavior modification reward

### **II. CONDITIONS FOR PRESENCE OF ANIMALS**

An Emotional Support animal may be present in the school and used in classrooms only after the following conditions are met:

- A. **Permission.** The responsible staff member has obtained the permission of the building principal or site administrator.
- B. **Health and Vaccination.** The handler has submitted proof to the site administrator from a licensed veterinarian that the animal is in good health and has been immunized against any diseases common to the animal. Such vaccination records shall be updated and kept at the school.
- C. **Licensing.** The animal will wear appropriate identification issued by the school district such as an identification vest or harness. The animal must have a current license from the city of Minneapolis and wear it on its collar.
- D. **Health and Safety.** The animal will only be brought to the school district when properly groomed, bathed, free of illness or injury and is of the temperament appropriate for working with children and others in the schools.
- E. **Notification.** Other staff members and parents of students in the affected classroom(s) have been notified and adjustments have been made to accommodate verified health-related or other

concerns. Except when an animal is used as an aid to a student or employee with disabilities. (See Policy 602 Service Animals) The presence of an animal shall be disallowed in the classroom if the documented health concerns of a staff member or student cannot be accommodated.

### III. BEHAVIOR WHILE ON SCHOOL PREMISES

- A. **Control.** While on the school premises, the Handler will ensure that the animal wears a proper collar or harness and is on a leash no longer than four feet. The Handler will maintain control of the animal at all times and shall not tether the animal to any individual or object. The Handler will keep control of the animal by holding the leash at all times while the animal is on school district property, including during breaks, unless holding the leash would interfere with the animal's safety. If there is an injury to a student or staff the injury report procedure would be followed.
- B. **Supervision and Care.** The Handler will be solely responsible for the supervision and humane care of the animal while the animal is on school property, including any feeding, exercising, and cleaning of the animal. The Handler will not leave the animal unsupervised or alone on school property or alone with a student at any time. The Handler will ensure that the animal has access to only such areas of the school building or property that have been authorized by school district administrators.
- C. **Exclusion or removal from School District Property.** An animal may be excluded from school district property if a school administrator determines that:
- (1) the Handler does not have control of the animal,
  - (2) the animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
  - (3) the presence of the animal interferes with the educational program.

The Handler shall immediately remove the animal from school property when instructed to do so by a school administrator.