

SERVICE AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

7.22000 DR
DISTRICT REGULATION

PURPOSE

Metropolitan Community College is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of the MCC community. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), colleges and universities must allow individuals with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility that are open to the public. Service animals are allowed in classrooms for students who utilize them. The college may also approve emotional support animals for students who have a specific accommodation for the animal as part of their approved MCC disability services accommodation. The college will maintain and follow clear, current, and compliant regulations and procedures related to service animals and emotional support animals on campus.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply to this regulation.

Service Animal: Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as any breed of dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The dog must be trained to take a specific action when needed to assist the person with a disability. For example, a person with a seizure disorder may have a dog that is trained to detect the onset of a seizure and then help the person remain safe during a seizure. Pursuant to Missouri law, a dog that is being trained as a service animal shall be considered a service animal for the purposes of this policy while the dog is actually engaged in training by an appropriate individual. See Mo. Rev. Stat. § 209.152.

Miniature horses who have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities may be allowed into facilities as service animals where reasonable.

Emotional Support Animal: Also known as therapy, comfort, or companion animals, emotional support animals (ESAs) are animals that provide comfort just by their presence. These animals have not been trained to perform a specific job or task and therefore do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. However, the College may permit a student to use an ESA through the disability accommodation interactive process if it is determined such an animal is necessary and does not pose an undue burden or fundamentally alter the College's programs, services, or activities.

ADOPTION August 20, 2015

REVISED: April 24, 2026

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: District Disability Support Services

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Handler: A student with a disability that a service animal assists or an attendant who handles the service animal on behalf of a person with a disability.

Owner: A student with a disability who has an approved ESA on campus.

REGULATION
MODIFICATION

This regulation may be modified or revoked by the Chancellor through the shared governance process established at the institution.

ENFORCEMENT

This regulation and any applicable related procedures shall be strictly enforced. Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

VALUES ALIGNMENT

People

REFERENCE

7.20000 BP Student Rights and Responsibilities
7.22010 OP Service and Emotional Support Animals
7.21500 DR Disability Support Services
7.21510 OP Disability Support Services