

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

SERVICE AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

The use of service and education assistance animals is an intervention strategy that is recognized as an aid to individuals in an inclusive education environment. Service and education assistance animals in schools can provide education value, however this value must be balanced against the impact the animal has on the education environment and the health and safety of the school community.

POLICY

Use of a service and/or education assistance animal by a student who requires this support will be allowed in school or on District property when: it has been determined that the student's needs require such use for the student to have equitable access to the services, programs, or activities offered by the school; when District requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the Superintendent; and the presence of the service and/or education assistance animal does not negatively impact the education environment and health and safety of the school community.

**Approved:
October 23, 2018**

REFERENCES

[Procedure 655 P 001](#) Service and Education Assistance Animals in School
[Exhibit 655 E 001](#) Request for a Certified Service Animal
[Exhibit 655 E 002](#) Request for an Education Assistance Animal