

4203/5031/7273 Other Animals in School

The Wake County Board of Education allows the appropriate and safe inclusion of [live](#) [animals](#) in instructional programs and as [classroom](#) pets, in accordance with this policy. The Superintendent is directed to develop and distribute regulations and procedures (R&P) governing the use of [animals](#) in schools as part of the curriculum or as [classroom](#) pets, including procedures to prevent the transmission of animal-borne diseases, proper handling of [animals](#) and their waste, and protocols for preventing and responding to injuries. This policy only addresses [animals](#) used for curricular or [classroom](#) purposes, and it does not create a right for staff, students, or others to bring non-service [animals](#) onto school property. Policy 4204/5029/7272, Service [Animals](#) in Schools, addresses issues related to service [animals](#).

The use of [live](#) [animals](#), as part of the curriculum or as [classroom](#) pets, requires authorization from the building principal prior to introduction. Prior to introducing any animal to a school environment, staff must investigate known student or staff allergies or other health issues that may be aggravated by the presence of the animal. Parental notification and an opportunity to object or opt out will be required prior to the use of [animals](#) for [classroom](#) or instructional purposes.

Use of animals by staff or students for instructional purposes is subject to the following requirements, and to adherence to approval procedures set forth in the accompanying R&P.

1. Animals must be housebroken as appropriate, must have received all vaccinations as required by state law; must wear a rabies tag where appropriate; must be free of parasites, must be kept clean and groomed, and otherwise in good health. Animals can be displayed in enclosed cages or under appropriate restraint (e.g. leash).
2. All costs related to the handling/care are the responsibility of the animal's owner.
3. School system staff are responsible for the care or supervision of any animals used as part of the curriculum or as classroom pets, and are expected to practice humane treatment at all times.
4. The owner of an animal is responsible for any physical damage or injuries caused by the animal.
5. Any animal that causes injury to staff or students or that demonstrates aggression or a safety risk of any kind, or interferes with orderly school operations, will be immediately isolated and removed from the school premises.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, [42 U.S.C. 12101](#) *et seq.*; [28 C.F.R. Part 35](#); Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, [20 U.S.C. 1400](#) *et seq.*;

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [29 U.S.C. 705\(20\), 794](#); [34 C.F.R. pt. 104](#); [N.C. Gen. Stat. 168-4.2](#).

Adopted: June 2, 2015

WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
