

POLICY 6830
ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

The School Board recognizes animals in a classroom as part of the science curriculum. Animals can add to educational enrichment programs relating to the study of biological sciences as a valuable way for students to learn and experience life sciences. Most importantly, that the Board maintains the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and animals as a paramount. Live animals will be allowed in the classroom as part of a curriculum or as classroom pets and will be permitted for laboratory study providing the provisions of this policy are met. Care and maintenance of living organisms as defined in the science curriculum must be followed. Dissection of animals or animal parts is limited to students at the High School level as defined in the curriculum. Staff and students must conform to the procedures described in the District's Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan.

LEGAL REF: Wisconsin Statutes
Sections 120.13 [Board power to do all things reasonable for cause of education]
121.02 (1)(e) and (i) [Safe and healthful facilities and emergency]

RULE 6830
ANIMALS IN SCHOOL

District procedures must be followed to have animals as part of the science curriculum and for educational enrichment programs relating to the study of biological science or as classroom pets.

Animal(s) should always be part of a well-documented curriculum that details how the animal will be integrated into the classroom setting. The teacher/caretaker must receive permission from the building principal, before any animal is brought to school. The following steps must be followed.

1. The teacher/caretaker must
 - a. notify parents/guardians in writing, prior to the animal being brought to school. A verification form from parents/guardians that students do not have any known allergies to the animal must be kept on file. If individuals exhibit adverse reactions to the animal(s), the animal(s) must be removed.
 - b. notify building staff members of the animal's presence who will be near or handling the animal. Staff members must also be allowed to verify that they do not have any known allergies to the animal.
 - c. only bring an animal known to be in good health and appropriately immunized.
 - d. use, and instruct students to use the standards of the District's Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan.
 - e. make provisions for the care and maintenance of the animal during the period of time when school is not in session (weekends, vacations, evenings).
2. Animal(s) must be humanely and properly housed in cages, aquariums, etc., specific for the species. Animal cages, aquariums, etc., and the surrounding areas must be meticulously maintained and Staff maintained. Aquariums, etc., must be handled.