

Independent School District #882 Policy for Animals in Buildings

Administrative Regulations – Elementary Buildings

With the exceptions outlined below, laboratory animals (mammals, fish, reptiles and birds) that are part of a curriculum project may be brought into a classroom for the duration of the project, not to exceed three weeks, but they must be kept in appropriate, properly maintained cages/containers. Animal waste will be cleaned up and disposed of separately by classroom teacher in charge of project.

Before bringing in a laboratory animal, teachers will inform parents that the animal will be in the classroom. If there are concerns about allergies, asthma or other related health issues, the animal will not be brought into the schoolroom.

At their own discretion, administrators may elect to allow animals on the premises.

Administrative Regulations – Middle School and Senior High Buildings

To help Students and adults, including staff who suffer from allergies and asthma and to improve quality of the indoor air and cleanliness of the classrooms, teachers, before bringing an animal into the classroom, will ask about health issues. If there are health issues, teachers will take the following steps to minimize the impact:

1. *Animals brought in for demonstration projects* will be kept in an area away from students/faculty with health issues and the animal will be removed as quickly as possible.
2. *Animals used for curriculum purposes* will be segregated from students/faculty with health concerns. If the health issue is significant, the teacher will develop an alternative lesson for the class and not bring the animal into the classroom.
3. Non-allergenic animals (reptiles, amphibians, most insects, crabs and fish) will be used whenever possible as an alternative to birds and animals.