

THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Circular No. 54
Series 2014/15

April 28, 2015

Chief Operating Officer

Animals in Schools

TO: All Staff

FROM: Camille B. Jones
Chief Operating Officer

Animals in schools or offices, leashed or not, present safety, environmental, and liability issues. Students and staff may be exposed to potential physical hazards, such as bites, and/or allergy related health problems. Therefore, animals are prohibited within HCPSS buildings, with the exception of service assistance dogs, or those approved for instructional purposes.

Service assistance dogs are approved for use "in transit". During a class, the dog should remain in an adjacent room, preferably uncarpeted, not in the classroom. In an office, the dog must remain within the office or work area of the employee, or away from contact with other employees, or the public. Additionally, the dog should wear a vest to control dander and hair loss. Request for use of service assistance dogs is made through the Office of Safety, Environment & Risk Management.

Staff is responsible for the proper control of animals brought to school for instructional purposes. Activities should meet educational guidelines. Prior approval for these activities must be received from the Office of Safety, Environment & Risk Management.

Any questions should be directed to the Office of Safety, Environment & Risk Management at 410-313-6739.

CBJ/RAM/vjw