

**POLICY #9612
ASSISTANCE DOGS**

PHILOSOPHY

The Surrey Board of Education believes that access to an effective educational program is a basic right of each student. Assistance dogs perform tasks that an individual is unable to perform independently by assisting persons with day-to-day activities and by providing physical safety and emotional support. It is recognized that an assistance dog may be key in the development of an environment that is conducive to equal access to services, programs and activities offered within the school district. Creating a supportive and caring environment for all students and staff is a top priority of the board.

Approved: 2016-06-03