



## **IJ – Service Animal**

The Portage la Prairie School Division supports and recognizes that the use of a trained service animal may be required.

A Service Animal

“An animal that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability that relates to that person’s disability” (*The Human Rights Code*).

The assistance performed by a service animal must be directly related to the person’s physical or mental disability. For example, a service animal may do any of the following:

- guiding a person who is blind
- alerting a person who is Deaf or hard of hearing
- pulling a wheelchair
- alerting or protecting an individual who is having a seizure
- reminding an individual with a mental illness to take their prescribed medication
- calming or addressing other disability-related needs of a person with mental health issues
- calming and keeping safe a child (for example, a child with autism)

Individuals may refer to their animal as a therapy, comfort or companion animal rather than a service animal. Regardless of the label used, as long as, the animal is trained to provide assistance to the person that relates to their disability, that animal is considered a service animal under The Human Rights Code. The Commission’s focus is accordingly on what a person’s disability needs are and what the animal does to provide assistance with those disability-related needs (Manitoba Human Rights Commission).

Divisional procedures must be adhered to and a Student Specific Plan developed prior to the use of the trained service animal.

<b>Adopted:</b>	September 14, 2021
<b>Revised:</b>	