

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: ACG-RC, EBH-RA, EBK-RA, ECJ-RB, JPD-RA
Responsible Office: Chief Operating Officer
School Support and Improvement
Related Sources: *Montgomery County Code*, Chapter 5, Article II, §5-203 (a)(2), (a)(6),(a)(7) and §5-203(c), Public Nuisances and Other Violations; *Rockville City Code*, Chapter 3, Article III, §3-21(6), Animal Nuisances

Animals on School Grounds

I. PURPOSE

To state current restrictions concerning dogs and other animals on school grounds for purposes other than school-sponsored activities

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Student day* begins when students arrive and ends when the dismissal bell indicates the end of the instructional day.
- B. *Uncontrolled animal* is one not controlled by a leash or similar restraining device and not under the immediate control of a responsible person.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Animals are not permitted in a Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) school building or office, except for service animals, as described in MCPS Regulation ACG-RC, *Service Animals in Schools*, or animals taking part in a school-sponsored activity with the permission of the principal, as described in MCPS Regulation ECJ-RB, *Animals in the Classroom*.
- B. Animal owners may only bring an animal on the grounds of an MCPS school if the animal is controlled by a leash or similar restraining device. Further, pet owners shall immediately remove and dispose of pet feces by a sanitary method.
- C. Principals may identify a waiting area for owners and their animals on school grounds during the student day, as well as during arrival and dismissal time. Even when in restricted areas, animals must remain under control at all times.

- D. When an uncontrolled animal is discovered on school property or in the school building during the student day, especially during arrival and dismissal time, the principal/designee should call the Montgomery County Police, Division of Animal Services.
- E. Principals/designees will observe further restrictions set forth by local municipalities if their schools are located within those municipalities.
 - a) According to Rockville City Code, Chapter 3, Article III, Keeping, Using, Caring for Animals §3-21(6), animals may not be present on school grounds during the period of one hour before school through one hour past the normal school hours, without the prior permission of the person in charge of the administration of the school.
 - b) When an uncontrolled animal is discovered on school grounds within the City of Rockville and in violation of Rockville City Code, the principal/designee should call the Rockville City Police Department, Neighborhood Services/Animal Control Division.
- F. In the event that an animal bites an individual while on school property, the injured person should seek medical attention as needed.
 - a) Principals/supervisors should follow appropriate reporting procedures. In the case of an injury to a student or staff member, follow MCPS Regulation EBK-RA: *Reporting and Caring for an Animal Bite*.
 - b) If an MCPS employee is injured at work, the employee must inform his or her supervisor, who then reports the incident to the MCPS claims administrator for workers compensation.

Regulation History: Formerly Regulation No. 285-1, April 29, 1975; revised May 2, 1988; revised February 8, 1995; revised March 16, 2010; revised January 14, 2014.