614 ANIMALS/REPTILES IN CLASSROOMS

I. PURPOSE

While the District realizes the educational benefits that children derive from having animals in classrooms, for the health and safety of all, the District is limiting their presence.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Administrative Regulations – Elementary Classrooms

To help children and adults who suffer from allergies and asthma and to improve quality of the indoor air and cleanliness of the classrooms, faculty, staff and students will not bring or keep animals, fish, reptiles or birds into ISD #94 facilities, during school or non-school hours.

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, but they must be kept in appropriate, properly maintained cages/containers.

Before bringing in laboratory animals, 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 classroom.

At their own direction, unit administrators may elect to allow non-laboratory animals on the premises but not inside school buildings. Administration may allow therapy dogs in the building in accordance with the Service & Therapy Dog policy.

B. Administrative Regulations – Middle School and Senior High Classrooms

To help children and adults 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.
C. Community Education

1. Dog Obedience courses will be scheduled with prior Administrative approval.