



## LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Superintendent Jeannine M. Durkin  
From: Attorney James P. Hall  
Date: January 30, 2019

I have reviewed the law related to service animals in schools. I have also reviewed several policies from other school districts. I recommend that the Lowell School Committee consider adopting a policy related to the presence of animals on school property. Such a policy will help school leaders appropriately address such requests in an appropriate manner when such issues are presented. While the Committee as a whole could review, discuss, and adopt a policy; I recommend first referring this matter to a subcommittee so that the issue can be further explored and so that input from the community can be considered.

For the Committee's consideration, the policy attached as Exhibit A was produced by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and was adopted by the North Middlesex Regional School District. The policy attached as Exhibit B was adopted by the Burlington School Committee and was also developed by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. I have also enclosed guidance from the Department of Health: "Animals in Schools: Recommendations for Schools" (Exhibit C) which talks of some of the risks of animals in classrooms which must be addressed and managed.