

Policy Number: ED 003	Title: Plants and Animals in the Classroom
Performance Standard:	Original Date: 8/2006 Reviewed: 5/2020 JS
	Policy Council Approval/Revision: 5/2012 2/2018 BOE Approval: 2/2018

POLICY:

You are encouraged to have plants in your classroom as they provide a lot of learning experiences and are a developmentally appropriate way of studying new life and growth, along with responsibility.

You are also encouraged to have pets in your classroom. The classroom staff is responsible for following appropriate care instructions for pets in the classrooms. The pet’s record of immunization and certificate of health should be kept on file in the classroom. Pets must meet certain guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

Plants

1. All plants in the classroom need to be identified by name and identified as non-toxic.
2. Unidentifiable plants or plants with questionable toxicity should not be in the classroom.
3. Upon request, a list of non-toxic plants will be provided to classroom staff.

Pets

1. Any pet or animal present in the classroom must be in good health, show no evidence or carrying any diseases, and be a friendly companion for the children. Staff will take into consideration any allergies that children in the classroom may have, and those animals will not be in allowed in the room. If available the animal will be immunized for any disease that can be transmitted to humans and will be maintained on a flea, tick and a worm control program.
2. The following animals will not be permitted in the classrooms: Ferrets, turtles, or other reptiles that can carry salmonella, birds of the parrot family, and any wild or dangerous animals.
3. When school is not in session animals will be taken to the teacher’s home.
4. Pets will be kept clean and housed in clean living environments. Children will feed the pets with adult supervision. Children will not be allowed access to animal excrement. Animal tanks and cages will be secured in such a manner that prevents children from climbing on the structure and prevents the structure from tipping over.
5. Children and staff will wash hands after handling animals.
6. In the event of an animal bite or scratch, the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment

Emergency Procedures for Injuries and Illness in Schools protocols will be followed. This includes the administering of first aid and notification of parent /guardian for the child.