



Compass Service Dog* Policy

Compass can ask the two legally allowed questions:

- (1) “Is this a service dog required because of a disability?”
- (2) “What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?”

Compass requires that service dogs must remain under control at all times.

Examples of a dog not being under control include: growling or lunging at people, excessive barking, wandering or roaming, jumping on others, urinating or defecating indoors, damaging property, or otherwise failing to respond to the handler’s direction.

Identification such as a vest, leash, or collar isn’t required, but strongly recommended for service dogs.

Because Compass serves many children who may not yet understand appropriate behavior around dogs- especially working dogs- we rely on clear visual cues. Without a vest or identification, a service dog may appear to be a pet, making it harder for children to recognize that the dog should not be touched or distracted. Compass and service-dog owners share a commitment to helping students learn to never interfere with a service animal while it is working.

Emotional support animals are not permitted.

Under ADA rules, only dogs trained to perform disability-related tasks are considered service animals. Emotional support animals and pets are not permitted at Compass.

Virginia Code §51.5-44.1 makes it a **Class 4 misdemeanor** to falsely represent a dog as a service dog.

Compass can deny access if:

The handler refuses to answer the allowed questions **OR** the dog is not under control **OR** the animal is for emotional support.

*Compass acknowledges that miniature horses also fall under this statute and will welcome trained miniature horses if the opportunity arises.