

ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Recognizing that some children are very seriously susceptible to the allergens associated with mammals, and that reptiles are sources of Salmonella infections and other bacterial problems, Bristol Virginia Public Schools will take necessary and reasonable steps to eliminate any negative impact from animals housed in and/or brought into the schools.

1. Animals, other than fish, will not be regularly housed in the classroom unless the teacher obtains affirmative written statements from the parent of each student in the classroom, where the animal is to be housed, that health impact is not a concern. Each school will develop a procedure to accomplish this.
2. Upon notification of allergic reaction to animals, those animals housed in the classrooms attended by the particular student will be removed.
3. Cages, containers, and aquariums will be maintained in a clean condition.
4. Children handling animals will be required to wash their hands afterward.
5. The principal is authorized to make decisions regarding animals in the school.

Adopted: by the Bristol Virginia School Board on June 5, 2023