



USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS BY STUDENTS

Legal References: *Education Act*
Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)
Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005
Blind Persons Rights Act, 2007
Individual Education Plan, A Resource Guide, 2004
OHRC Policy On Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities, 2018
PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals, 2019

Related References: *Board Policy 1008 - Equity and Inclusion*
Board Policy 1010 - Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities
Board Policy 1006 - Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions
Administrative Procedure 1630 - Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities
Administrative Procedure 1470 - Anaphylactic Management Plan
Administrative Procedure 2020 - Use of Service Dogs

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Revisions:

Reviewed:

1. Preamble

- 1.1 The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is committed to the learning of all students and provides a range of differentiated placements, programs and interventions to support student achievement and well being. It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board, in accordance with its obligations pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code, to provide individualized accommodation to students with disabilities (as defined in Section 2 of the AODA and the OHRC) to enable them to have meaningful access to education services.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 In circumstances where a parent or adult student requests to have the student's Guide Dog, Service Dog or Service Animal accompany a student while attending school or a school-related event, each request will be reviewed individually by the WRDSB considering the student's dignity, integration, independence and disability-related learning needs and the current accommodations available to enable meaningful access to education.
- 2.2 The process of accommodation shall also consider the competing human rights of other students and staff; the impact of the Guide Dog, Service Dog or Service Animal on the learning environment; and the health and safety of all individuals who are or might be in the school, on school grounds or at a school-related event.
- 2.3 The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals as outlined in Administrative Procedure 2020.