



## USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS BY STUDENTS

Legal References:	<a href="#"><i>Education Act</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Blind Persons Rights Act, 2007</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Individual Education Plan, A Resource Guide, 2004</i></a> <a href="#"><i>OHRC Policy On Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities, 2018</i></a> <a href="#"><i>PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals, 2019</i></a>
Related References:	<a href="#"><i>Board Policy 1008 - Equity and Inclusion</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Board Policy 1010 - Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Board Policy 1006 - Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Administrative Procedure 1630 - Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Administrative Procedure 1470 - Anaphylactic Management Plan</i></a> <a href="#"><i>Administrative Procedure 2020 - Use of Service Dogs</i></a>
Effective Date:	January 1, 2020
Revisions:	April 15, 2024
Reviewed:	

### 1. Purpose

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. Definitions

2.1 Competing Human Rights involve situations where parties to a dispute claim that the enjoyment of an individual or group's human rights and freedoms, as protected by law, would interfere with another's rights and freedoms. This complicates the normal approach to resolving a human rights dispute where only one side claims a human rights violation. In some cases, only one party is making a human rights claim, but the claim conflicts with the legal entitlements of another party or parties. In situations where competing rights may be involved, the WRDSB will follow the Ontario Human Rights Commission's organizational process for addressing competing human rights.

2.2 Guide Dog, Service Dog and Service Animals are defined in Administrative Procedure 2020 - Use Of Service Animals, Guide Dogs And Service Dogs By Students Section 3.

3. Application of the Policy

- 3.1 In circumstances where a caregiver/guardian 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals as outlined in Administrative Procedure 2020.