



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

Responsibility:	<i>Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer of the Board</i>
Legal References:	<u>Education Act</u> , R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2, s. 171 (1), par. 7
Related References:	<u>Administrative Procedure 1010 - Junior and Senior Kindergarten Registration</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 1030 - Boundary Requests – Secondary Schools</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 1040 - Boundary Requests – Elementary Schools</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 1035 - Grade 8 to 9 Transfer</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 4991 - Boundary Studies-Reviews</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 4992 - Temporary Accommodation for Development Areas</u> <u>Administrative Procedure 4860 - Pupil Accommodation Review</u> <u>Board Policy 4000 – Pupil Accommodation Review</u>
Effective Date:	<i>November 28, 2005</i>
Revisions:	<i>June 16, 2014, November 18, 2019, February 12, 2024</i>
Reviewed:	<i>November 20, 2017</i>

1. Purpose

- 1.1 It is the mandate of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) to provide school accommodation for qualifying resident students within its jurisdiction.
- 1.2 The WRDSB believes effective public education requires active cooperation between students, families, caregivers, staff, Trustees and the community and is therefore committed to providing opportunities for input into decisions regarding changes to school attendance areas.
- 1.3 The WRDSB believes students should attend the school within their attendance area. Administrative Procedures 1030, 1035 and 1040 provide for exceptions to school attendance areas.
- 1.4 An “attendance area,” or school boundary, surrounds a school and is defined by a specific edge/geographical line. Students living within a school’s attendance area can attend that school.

2. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the WRDSB to:

- 2.1 Determine the number of schools in the district, as well as the grade profile and attendance area for each school in the district;
- 2.2 Organize attendance areas to make efficient and economical use of the WRDSB’s facilities, programs, resources and staff;
- 2.3 Regularly review school attendance areas to maintain a viable and efficient school system.

3. Changes to School Attendance Areas

It is the policy of the WRDSB that:

- 3.1 School attendance areas may change when the WRDSB closes a school, alters grades offerings, or opens a new school. Adjustments may also be necessary to address enrolment-related accommodation issues.
- 3.2 Changes to school attendance areas will recognize historical attendance area agreements with other school boards.
- 3.3 Consultation with impacted students, families, caregivers and community members happens before any WRDSB decision on changes to school attendance areas.
- 3.4 New school attendance areas or changes to existing attendance areas will consider appropriate planning criteria, as outlined in Administrative Procedure 4991 – Boundary Reviews and the WRDSB’s commitment to human rights and equity.
- 3.5 The Board of Trustees will decide on changes to school attendance areas.

4. Exceptions

- 4.1 Changing or creating attendance areas for specialized programs or establishing temporary Development Areas follow Administrative Procedures 4991 and 4992.