



Annual Accessibility Status Report

2019-2020

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TOGETHER

Prepared by the

Halton District School Board

Accessibility Coordinating Committee

January 2021

This publication is available on the Halton District School Board website at www.hdsb.ca and available in alternate formats upon request.

Introduction

The Halton District School Board remains committed to supporting and meeting the objectives and requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA). The Board continues to meet all of the accessibility requirements outlined by the AODA.

The purpose of the Annual Accessibility Report is to highlight the progress made during the 2019-20 school year in providing an environment in all its workplaces and learning spaces that builds independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity for students, parents/guardians, staff and the public. The Halton District School Board is committed to the goal of giving persons with disabilities the same opportunity of access to its services, in the same location, and in a similar way as these services are available to all others we serve. (Note: The impact of work sanctions beginning in November 2019, and the subsequent closure of board facilities from March - June 2020 due to COVID-19, restricted the completion of some actions outlined in operational plans for 2019-2020.)

Objectives

The Annual Accessibility Status Report 2019-2020 supports and reflects the objectives of the HDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2017-2022) to:

- describe the process by which the Board will identify, remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities;
- review recent efforts of the Board to remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities;
- describe the measures the Board has taken in the specified time period to identify, remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities;
- provide an annual status report on the Board's implementation of the multi-year accessibility plan;
- provide an update on the status of the multi-year accessibility plan; and
- make the accessibility plan available to the public.

Policy & Procedures

During the 2019-20 school year, the following HDSB Administrative Procedures were drafted, reviewed or updated:

[Attendance Management Support \(2019\)](#)

[Individual Accommodations \(2019\)](#)

[Prescribed Assistive Technology \(2020\)](#)

[Recruitment Accommodation \(2020\)](#)

[Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals \(2020\)](#)

Training

Providing training about accessibility and inclusion is necessary in order to facilitate change. During the 2019-20 school year, the following training opportunities were provided for HDSB employee and community groups:

- Respectful Workplace Training - for Managers, Supervisors and School Administrators - Fall 2019
- Equitable and Inclusive Recruitment and Selection practices for Administrators - Fall 2019
- Anti- Bias training for all School Administrators, Superintendents, Senior Managers and Instructional Program Leaders - September 2019
- Parent Involvement Conference - Anti-Bias Session - October 2019
- Attendance, Accommodations, Disability Management Process - Halton District Educational Assistants - November 2019, and CUPE - July 2020
- Anti-bias Training for Administrators & Superintendents as part of the Administrator Pool Hire Process - September 2019 and February 2020
- Parent Involvement Committee Conference - October 2019
- Equity Lead Teachers - September - December 2019

Halton Student Transportation Services

The five bussing companies that comprise the HSTS consortium, providing service to HDSB students are required to provide the following training to every school bus driver annually:

- AODA - Customer Service Standard
- Sensitivity Training
- Diversity Training

Required Training:

All school based staff completed *Accessibility Awareness Training* in the 2019 Fall Start-up online training.

Education (Students)

During the 2019-2020 school year the following large items were purchased to support student accessibility:

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Equipment Requests:

C- Pen:	206
Chromebooks:	850
Laptops (large):	175
Ipads:	111
Livescribe:	13
Total:	1355

Training at Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) Networkings included Assistive Technology (AT) training regarding how to order technology, the information provided around AT software training, and AT Web page.

Student/ School Specific Training was undertaken on a needs or requested basis, and pilot program basis.

Over 75 training sessions or professional development modules delivered and made available to staff and families to build capacity. Sessions included:

September 2019 - February 2020

- Assistive Technology - Using New Processes Workshop (2 sessions)
- Rev Touch Specific Training (2 session)
- C-Pen Training Session (1 session)
- Navigating Your First Year for Elementary Special Education Resource Teachers (3 region specific sessions)
- Assistive Technology Monthly Training Series (10 sessions)
- Special Education Resource Teachers Learning Series (3 region specific sessions)
- Communication Class Networking (1 session)
- Learning Disabilities Networking (1 session)
- Life Skills and Community Pathways Program Networking (1 session)
- Professional Development Day for EAs Using Boardmaker Online (2 sessions)
- Boardmaker Online and Boardmaker Studio Support (4 sessions)

March - June 2020

- Family Support Website created [AT PARENT SUPPORT WEBSITE](http://www.HDSB.ca) (www.HDSB.ca)
- Individual Student Remote Learning Modules developed and shared

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Staff Remote Learning Modules developed and shared
Virtual inservices/webinars for staff (OCTs and EAs)
Assistive Technology Educator Learning Sessions (45 sessions)

July & August 2020
Assistive Technology Summer School

Information & Communication

During the 2019-2020 school year, Communications & IT teams successfully migrated the majority of school websites to Google Sites using standard templates to meet AODA requirements. The AODA scanning tool will continue to be used on new sites to ensure compliance with materials included on school websites

Additionally, Library Services finalized the AODA documentation in HDSB Libraries Knowledge Base during the 2019-2020 school year. These documents were shared with all library staff and highlighted for school administrator reference when requests for accessible library resources are made. The following resources were prepared to support accessibility in school libraries:

- Accessible eResources
- Accessible School Library Spaces
- Accessible Video Resources
- Providers of AODA Compliant Resources
- Provision of Accessible and/or Conversion-Ready Formats

Finally, the [HDSB.ca Accessibility](https://www.hdsb.ca/accessibility) webpage was updated and now includes a submittable form for members of the public to identify any type of barrier they encounter in accessing services or supports through the Halton District School Board.

Built Environment

Effective September 2020, the Facilities Department has begun using the Ministry of Education checklist to review accessibility features of buildings and sites, update accessibility information to share with various HDSB departments.

Barrier Free projects completed during the 2019-2020 School include:
Barrier Free Washrooms
Burlington Central - Gym area

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New elevators installed in the following sites:

- Pineland (Burlington)
- Maplehurst (Burlington)
- Rolling Meadows (Burlington)
- Nelson (Burlington) - in progress

New stair lifts installed in the following sites:

- George Kennedy (Georgetown)

Modification work was completed to enhance and expand Community Pathway Program spaces at White Oaks Secondary School - North Campus, and to provide new Physical Education space on the South Campus.

Additionally, Facility Services worked with teachers, students and parents to enhance naturalized learning environments, using landscape and AODA specialists to ensure that spaces are inclusive and accessible to all. During the 2019-2020 school year the outdoor space for the Communications Class at Ryerson PS and the outdoor learning space at Nelson HS were completed. As outdoor kindergarten spaces throughout the Board are revitalized, an accessibility lens is applied and upgrades incorporated.

Accessibility Coordinating Committee Membership (2019-20)

Robert Eatough	Superintendent Sponsor Superintendent
Mary Marshall	Co-Chair System Principal, Equity and Inclusive Education
Sari Taha	Co-Chair General Manager, Human Resources
Lisa Cadotte	Manager, Health and Wellness Services
Marnie Denton	Manager, Communication Services
Joanne Eliuk	Halton Secondary Principals Association Representative
Lynn Goodwin	Manager, Instructional Media
Gail Gortmaker	Manager, Director's office
Karen Lacroix	General Manager, Halton Student Transportation Services
Danielle MacDonald	Halton Elementary Principals Association Representative
Sean Marks	System Principal, Student Services
Jim Moher	Assistant Manager, Plant Operations
Sandy Morgan	Manager, Halton Student Transportation
Joanna Oliver	Trustee, Halton District School Board
Maia Puccetti	Superintendent, Facility Services
Marsha Sulewski	Supervisor, Staffing and Recruiting
Cathy Thier	General Manager, Information Services
Gord Truffen	Superintendent, Information Services
Lucielle Morris	Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)