



BOARD POLICY	
Adopted	December 2019 M19-0173
Review Date	As required

STUDENT USE OF GUIDE DOGS, SERVICE DOGS, and SERVICE ANIMALS

POLICY STATEMENT

The Halton District School Board is committed to the learning of all students and provides a range of differentiated placements, programs and interventions to support student success. It is the policy of the Halton District School Board, in accordance with its obligations pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code, to provide individualized accommodation to students with disabilities to enable them to have meaningful access to education services, including the use of guide dogs, service dogs and service animals as appropriate.

SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

In circumstances where a parent or adult student requests to have the student's Guide Dog, Service Dog or Service Animal accompany the student while attending school or a school-related event, each such request shall be reviewed individually by the Halton District School Board considering the student's dignity, integration, independence and disability-related learning needs and the accommodations available to enable meaningful access to education.

Pursuant to the *Education Act* and regulations, a school building is not a place to which the public is customarily admitted.

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.

A copy of this policy shall be available in accessible formats on the Halton District School Board's website and may be requested by a parent or adult student in a different language through the school attended by the student.

The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals as outlined in its Administrative Procedure.

Legal References:

Human Rights Code, RSO 1990, c.H.19
Education Act, RSO 1990, c.E2, s. 170(1), s.265(1); O. Reg. 298, s.11
PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals
J.F. v. Waterloo Catholic District School Board, 2017 HRTO 1121 (CanLII)
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, SO 2005, c. 11
Blind Persons' Rights Act, RSO 1990, c.B7,
Dog Owners' Liability Act, RSO 1990, c.D16
Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990, c.H7

Board References:

Equity and Inclusive Education Policy
Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Administrative Procedure
Religious and Creed Accommodations Administrative Procedure
Accessibility Planning Administrative Procedure
Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Administrative Procedure
Active Transportation Administrative Procedure
Student Excursions Administrative Procedure