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| Number: | <i>To be determined</i> |
| Topic: | Accessibility Planning |
| Effective: | January 2009 |
| Cross-Reference: | Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 |
| Review/Revision Date: | January 2012 |
| Responsibility: | Superintendent of Education, School Operations |

INTENDED PURPOSE:

The Halton District School Board is required to comply with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*. The purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the province.

PROCEDURES:

The Annual Accessibility Plan of the Halton District School Board will be approved by Administrative Council, within existing resources, and shared with Trustees and SEAC prior to being posted on the Board website. School boards are required to:

- Establish an Accessibility Working Group
- Consult with board employee groups and people with disabilities in the development and review of its annual accessibility plans
- Ensure school board policies and procedures are consistent with the principles of accessibility
- Improve access to facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community

The Director of Education of the Halton District School Board has authorized the Accessibility Working Group to prepare an accessibility plan on an annual basis that will enable the Halton District School Board to meet these commitments.

The Annual Accessibility Plan must address the following areas:

1. Describe the *process* by which the Halton District School Board will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities
2. Describe the efforts of the Halton District School Board to remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities during the *past year(s)*
3. List the policies, procedures, programs, practices and services that the Halton District School Board will review in the *coming year* to identify barriers for people with disabilities
4. Describe the *measures* the Halton District School Board will take in the coming year to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities
5. Identify the method(s) the Halton District School Board will take to make this accessibility plan *available to the public*.

The provincial Accessibility Standards Advisory Council of Ontario is setting out Ontario's Accessibility Standards in the following areas:

- Customer Service
- Transportation
- Built Environment
- Information and Communication
- Employment

Ontario's first accessibility standard, on customer service, came into effect on January 1, 2008. The proposed second standard, on information and communication, was released for consultation in November 2008.