

# Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs, and Service Animals

Board Policy

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**Adopted:** December 2019  
**Revised:** November 2023  
**Review date:** November 2027

## Policy Statement

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) 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 HDSB, 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.

## Guiding Principles

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 request shall be reviewed individually by the HDSB 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.

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

## Scope

This policy applies to eligible students attending HDSB schools.

## Related HDSB Policies

- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy

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## Related HDSB Administrative Procedures

- Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals;
- Religious and Creed Accommodations;
- Accessibility Planning;
- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service;
- Active Transportation;
- Student Excursions.

## Related Ministry Documents

- PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals

## 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
- 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.