



POLICY

Title:	STUDENT USE OF GUIDE DOGS AND SERVICE ANIMALS	Policy No.: 5018 Effective Date: 2020 June 23
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Department: Learning Support Services: Special Education

Reference(s):

- 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
- 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

1.0 Policy

- 1.1 It is the policy of the Thames Valley 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 in a manner that respects their dignity, maximizes integration and facilitates the development of independence.
- a) The School Board utilizes a variety of placements, differentiated programming, and evidence-based interventions and strategies to provide meaningful access to education for students who have disability-related needs that impact their learning.
 - b) The School Board does not provide Guide Dogs, Service Dogs or Service Animals to students.
- 1.2 In circumstances where a parent(s) / guardian(s) / adult student requests to have the student's Guide Dog / Service Animal accompany the student while attending school or a school-related event, each such request shall be reviewed individually by the Thames Valley 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.
- 1.3 Pursuant to the *Education Act* and regulations, a school building is not a place to which the public is customarily admitted.

Administered By:	Learning Support Services – Special Education
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Amendment Date(s):

- 1.4 The process of accommodation shall also consider the competing human rights of other students and of staff; the impact of the Guide Dog / 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.
- 1.5 The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide Dogs / Service Animals as outlined in its Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Procedure.