



## **Policy Manual – Administration**

### **A.21 Student Use of Certified Service Animals in Schools**

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#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCD SB) is committed to the learning of all students and provides a range of differentiated interventions, placements and programs to support student success. It is the policy of the HWCD SB, in accordance with its obligations pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) to provide appropriate accommodation to students with disabilities to enable them to have meaningful access to education services.

In circumstances where a parent/guardian or adult student requests to have the student's Guide Dog/Service Dog/Service Animal accompany the student while attending school or a school-related event, each such request shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the HWCD SB considering the student's dignity, inclusion, independence and disability-related learning needs as well as alternative accommodations available to enable meaningful access to education.

The process of accommodation shall consider the competing rights of other students and of staff; the impact of the Guide Dog/Service 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.

The HWCD SB shall retain data regarding the request for Guide Dogs/Service Dogs/Service Animals as outlined in the HWCD SB Administrative Procedures for Student Use of Certified Service Animals in Schools.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is two-fold:

- To comply with Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum 163 – School Board Policies on Services Animals (September 9, 2019); and,
- To ensure that students with disability-related needs are provided with accommodations which allow them full access the Ontario curriculum.

#### **Responsibility**

Superintendents of Education

Superintendent of Human Resources  
Superintendent of Education – Special Education Programs and Services

**Regulations**

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005  
Blind Persons’ Rights Act, 1990  
Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11  
Ontario Human Rights Code, 1990  
Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997

**Related Policies**

A.19 Accessibility Policy  
A.18 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan  
H.M.11 Respectful Catholic Workplace Community Policy PPM163  
School Board Policies on Service Animals

**Related Board Committee**

Committee of the Whole

**Policy Review Date**

BM Original Policy Approved: 19 November 2019, 26 September 2022, 10 March 2023 Revisions:  
To be reviewed every five years-2028