


**Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board**



Section: Students

**POLICY:**  
**ST: 28 Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals**

<b>NUMBER:</b>	ST: 28
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	Dec. 10, 2019
<b>AMENDED:</b>	
<b>RELATED POLICIES:</b>	See References
<b>REPEALS:</b>	
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	2024-2025

## 1.0 OBJECTIVE

- 1.1 Allow a student to be accompanied by a service animal in school when doing so would be an appropriate accommodation to support the student’s learning needs and would meet the Windsor-Essex Catholic School Board’s duty to accommodate students with disabilities under the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- 1.2 Make determinations on whether to approve requests for a service animal on a case-by-case basis, based on the individual needs of each student; and
- 1.3 Put in place consistent and transparent processes that allow for meaningful consideration of requests for service animals to accompany students in school.

## 2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board (WECDSB) 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 WECDSB, 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.
- 2.2 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 WECDSB considering the student’s dignity, integration, independence and disability-related learning needs and the accommodations available to enable meaningful access to education.
- 2.3 Pursuant to the *Education Act* and regulations, a school building is not a place to which the public is customarily admitted.
- 2.4 The process of accommodation shall also consider the competing human rights of other students and of staff; the impact of the Guide Dog, Service 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.

- 2.5 A copy of this policy shall be available in accessible formats on the WECDSB's website and may be requested by a parent or adult student in a different language through the school attended by the student.
- 2.6 The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals as outlined in Administrative Procedure Pr ST: 28 Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals.

### **3.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

- 3.1 The Director of Education shall ensure that administrative procedures are developed that are in compliance with the principles and directives of this policy and with the *Education Act*.

### **4.0 REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

- 4.1 The effectiveness of this policy shall be assessed through trustee, staff and community satisfaction measures.
- 4.2 This policy will be reviewed in the 2024-2025 policy review cycle.

### **5.0 REFERENCES**

Regulation 298 subsection 11(11)  
Education Act