

Student Transportation Accessibility Standard



**Waterloo Catholic
District School Board**
Quality, Inclusive, Faith Based Education

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ONTARIO REGULATION 191/11
UNDER THE *ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2005*

Rationale for the Policy and Administrative Procedures

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) is committed to providing services to our students, parents/guardians, the public and our staff that are free of barriers and biases. The WCDSB strives to ensure that key principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity are reflected and valued in our learning and working environments. Our conduct will demonstrate our belief in the strength diversity brings to our communities.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board to provide an environment in all of its facilities that builds independence, dignity and respect for our students, parents/guardians, the public and our staff. Further, we are committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity of access to our services in the same location and in a similar way as these services are available to all others we serve.

The provision of accessible student transportation services will include the development of an individual school transportation plan for each student who has a disability that affects their transportation to and from school. The plan will be developed by the Board's Special Education Services in collaboration with the Transportation Provider and in consultation with the student's parents or guardians.

The WCDSB contracts for student transportation services with Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) -- <http://transportation.stswr.ca/>

Legal Framework

- √ *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)*
- √ *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*
- √ Ontario Regulation 191/11 – Integrated Accessibility Standards
- √ Ontario Human Rights Code

Board References

- √ Board Policy I 001 – *“Ends”*
- √ Board Policy IV 002 – *“Treatment of the Public”*
- √ Board Policy IV 003 – *“Treatment of Students”*
- √ Board Policy IV 004 – *“Treatment of Staff”*
- √ Board Policy IV 009 – *“Asset Protection”*
- √ WCDSB Multi-year Accessibility Plan
- √ APO 012 – Transportation
- √ Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region – Special Needs Transportation Policy
- √ Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region – Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy

Definitions

Individual school transportation plan:

...is a plan that provides details of the arrangements that meet the transportation needs of an individual student who has a disability.

Operator:

...means the driver of the school transportation vehicle.

Transportation Provider:

...is an entity or person who has entered into an agreement with the board for the transportation of students in accordance with the *Education Act*.

Transportation Services:

...means transportation that a board provides for students in accordance with the *Education Act*.

Administrative Procedures

1.0 Responsibility

1.1 The Board will ensure that the provisions of this Administrative Procedure are in place by **January 1, 2014**.

1.2 The Superintendent responsible for Special Education and the managerial staff responsible for student transportation will ensure that the provisions of this administrative procedure are implemented.

2.0 Individual School Transportation Plans

2.1 The Superintendent responsible for Special Education, or his/her designate, will in consultation with parents or guardians annually identify students with disabilities who require specific transportation services; such identification will, wherever possible, be made prior to the commencement of the school year.

2.2 Following consultation with parents or guardians, the Superintendent responsible for Special Education, or his/her designate, will work with the Student Transportation Manager, or his/her designate, to develop an individual student transportation plan for each student with a disability who requires specific transportation services.

3.0 Content of Individual School Transportation Plans

3.1 An individual school transportation plan shall, in respect of each student with a disability requiring specific transportation services, include the following:

- a)** details of the student's assistance needs with respect to transportation to and from school.
- b)** provisions for the boarding, securement and debording of the student as applicable.

4.0 Communication of responsibilities re Individual School Transportation Plans

4.1 The Superintendent responsible for Special Education and, where appropriate, the Student Transportation Manager, will identify and communicate roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the individual school transportation plan to the following:

- a)** the Transportation Provider.
- b)** the parents or guardians of the student with the disability.

- c) the operator (driver) of the student transportation vehicle.
- d) the appropriate members of the school staff (e.g., principal, teacher, educational assistant).
- e) the student with the disability.

5.0 Annual Review / Update

5.1 This document will be reviewed annually and updated as required.