

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 161

Accessibility Standards for School Transportation

It is the policy of the Limestone District School Board to provide an environment in all of its facilities that fosters independence, dignity and respect. The Limestone District School Board is committed to providing services that are free of barriers and biases to our students, parents/guardians, the public and our staff. We strive to ensure that the principle of equity of opportunity is reflected and valued in our learning and working environments. Our conduct will demonstrate our belief in the strength that diversity brings to our communities.

We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the same opportunity of access to our services in a similar way as these services are available to all others we serve. We are committed to meeting, in a timely manner, the accessibility needs of people with disabilities in the provision of services including those related to student transportation.

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 consortium provides for students in accordance with the *Education Act*.

1.0 Responsibility

- 1.1 The Board and the Tri-Board Consortium will ensure that the provisions of this Administrative Procedure are in place by January 2014.

2.0 Individual School Transportation Plans

- 2.1 School administration or his/her designates 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, school administration or his/her designates, will work with the Tri-Board Consortium, 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:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 161

Accessibility Standards for School Transportation

- (i) Details of the student's assistance needs with respect to transportation to and from school
- (ii) Provisions for the boarding, securement and debarking of the student as applicable.

4.0 Communication of responsibilities re Individual School Transportation Plans

4.1 School administration or his/her designates and, where appropriate, the Tri-Board Consortium, will identify and communicate roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the individual school transportation plan to the following:

- (i) The Transportation Provider
- (ii) The parents or guardians of the student with the disability
- (iii) The operator (driver) of the student transportation vehicle
- (iv) The appropriate members of the school staff (e.g., teacher, educational assistant)
- (v) The student with the disability.

Legal Framework

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)

Accessibility Standard for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07

Integrated Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11

Ontario Human Rights Code

Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001

Cross-Referencing

Board Accessibility Plan

Equity and Inclusive Education Administrative Procedure (AP-105)

Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (AP-151)

Monitoring and Feedback on Accessible Customer Service (AP-152)

Notification of Disruption of Service (AP-153)

Use of Assistive Devices by the General Public (AP-154)

Use of Service Animals by General Public (AP-155)

Use of Support Person by the General Public (AP-156)

December 2013