

Accessibility Standards for Student Transportation Procedure

RATIONALE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is 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.

TERMINOLOGY:

Bus: means a motor vehicle designed for carrying 10 or more passengers and used for the transportation of persons.

Transportation services: means transportation that a board provides under section 190 of the Education Act.

Transportation provider: includes an entity or person that has entered into an agreement with a board for the transportation of students under subsection 190(6) of the Education Act.

Specialized transportation services: means passenger transportation services that are provided by a designated transportation organization and are designed to transport persons with disabilities.

Specialized transportation service provider: means a designated transportation organization that provides specialized transportation services.

Mobility aid: means a device used to facilitate the transport, in a seated posture, of a person with a disability.

PROCEDURES:

1.0 Responsibility

1.1 HWDSB shall:

- 1.1.1 Ensure that integrated accessible school transportation services are provided for their students, or
- 1.1.2 Ensure that appropriate alternative accessible transportation services are provided for students with disabilities, where in the opinion of HWDSB integrated accessible school transportation services are not possible or not the best option for a student with a disability because of the nature of the disability or safety concerns.

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1.2 The above provisions will be in place by July 1, 2011.

2.0 Identification

2.1 HWDSB shall, in consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s) of students with disabilities:

2.1.1 Identify students with disabilities before the commencement of each school year or during the school year, based on the needs of the student with a disability;

2.1.2 Develop individual school transportation plans for each student with a disability that:

2.1.2.1 Detail student assistance needs for each student with a disability, and

2.1.2.2 Include plans for individual student boarding, securement and de-boarding; and

2.1.3 Identify and communicate to the appropriate parties the roles and responsibilities of the transportation provider, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student with the disability, the operator of the vehicle used to transport the student, appropriate school staff and the student with the disability.

2.2 The above provisions will be in place by January 1, 2014.