



Section <b>Transporting Students with Service Dogs</b>	Page 1 of 2
Type <b>Specialized Transportation</b>	Date August, 2012

<p><b>Statement</b></p>	<p>Service dogs are trained to assist children who have physical or developmental disabilities with their daily lives and living activities.</p> <p>RRDTS recognizes that a student may require a service dog to be transported with them on a school purpose vehicle as part of their daily life and activities.</p> <p>The Human Rights Code and the Ontarians with Disabilities Act cites the use of service dogs as a right of the individual.</p> <p><b>Specialized transportation requests are approved on an annual basis only and must be reviewed each year.</b></p>
<p><b>Procedures</b></p>	<p><b>The Parent/Guardian shall:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a letter to the Special Education Department outlining what they see as the benefits of having the service dog attend school with their child.</li> <li>2. Provide a letter to the Special Education Department from their doctor recommending the use of a service dog for their child at school.</li> <li>3. Provide a certificate of training from a certified training centre of service dogs.</li> <li>4. Provide the school with annual proof of that the dog has been vaccinated, in good health and is licenced by the municipality.</li> <li>5. Assist in the training of the service dog to board, ride and alight the vehicle with their child prior to using the regular transportation service.</li> </ol> <p><b>The Special Education Department shall:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the request for the student to use a service dog at school and approve where applicable.</li> <li>2. Inform RRDTS and the school that a student with special needs will be using a service dog as part of their daily activities.</li> <li>3. Provide RRDTS and the school with copies of the documents submitted by the parents in regard to the use of the service dog by the student.</li> </ol>



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<b>Procedures...continued</b>	<p>4. On an annual basis review and approve the use of the service dog by the student.</p> <p><b>The Principal in consultation with the Special Education Department shall:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Authorize the specialized transportation request.</li><li>2. Obtain appropriate Board administrative approvals before forwarding the request to RRDTS.</li><li>3. Assist the student in boarding the vehicle and finding an appropriate seat with space for the service dog.</li><li>4. Inform RRDTS of any changes to the student's transportation requirements.</li></ol> <p><b>RRDTS shall:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Consult with the Special Education Department and/or principal on the special needs of the student and service dog.</li><li>2. Organize transportation for the student and service dog.</li><li>3. Inform the bus operator that a service dog is being used by one of his/her passengers.</li><li>4. Coordinate the training of the student, service dog, school and driver on transporting students with service dogs.</li><li>5. Send notice to all parents of students riding the vehicle with the service dog.</li></ol>
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