



System Review Notice

Background Information

The Policy Standing Committee has reviewed and revised BP 1411-D “Accessibility Standards” as part of the cyclical review process. Revisions include housekeeping changes throughout the document, as well as updates to Section 2.0 Definitions.

Board policy BP 1411-D is attached showing proposed changes and can also be found on the board website (www.bwdsb.on.ca → About Us → Policies and Procedures → Policies Under Review).

Please note the following as it pertains to edits within documents for review:

- information that is being added to a policy will be highlighted in yellow
- information that is being removed from a policy will be highlighted in yellow with a strike-through
- information that has been reorganized in the document is red.

Feedback

Feedback must be forwarded to Corporate Services to the attention of Crystal Myles (crystal_myles@bwdsb.on.ca) by March 15, 2021. Your attention to this timeline is appreciated and will ensure that your feedback is included when the policy is referred back to the Policy Standing Committee for final review.

Questions to Consider

When you are preparing your feedback please consider the following questions:

- Are there any obstacles that might be encountered due to this policy?
- Would you be able to easily follow the processes outlined in this policy?
- Can you identify any gaps in the information provided?

Thank You.

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Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Policy Title	Accessibility Standards		
Date of Issue	January 19, 2010	Related Procedure	AP 1411-D; AP 1412-D; AP1413-D; AP 1414-D; AP 1425-D; AP 1430-D; AP 1435-D; AP 6809-D; AP 2355-D; TCP-A006
Revision Dates	June 15, 2010; February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan); February 17, 2015	Related Forms	
Review Date	February 1, 2020	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
BP 2355-D "Third Party Protocol"; Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA); O. Reg 191/11 'Integrated Accessibility Standards' ; Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07 ; Ontario Human Rights Code; Bluewater District School Board Annual Accessibility Plan; Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations 191/11			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Bluewater District School Board is committed to providing services that are free of barriers and biases to our students, staff, parents/guardians, and the general public. Bluewater District School Board 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.

2.0 DEFINITIONS RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

- Accommodation** is a means of preventing and removing, through reasonable efforts, barriers that impede individuals **with disabilities** from participating fully in the services of the board.
- Barriers** means anything that prevents a person **with a disability** from fully participating in all aspects of the services of the board. This includes, but is not limited to, a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, information or communications barrier, an attitudinal barrier, a technological barrier.
- Customer** is any person who uses the services of the board e.g. parents/guardians and the public.
- Disability** (a) any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device,

- (b) a condition of mental impairment or a developmental intellectual disability,
- (c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- (d) a mental disorder, or
- (e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997; (“handicap”)

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 It is the policy of the Bluewater District School Board to provide, through reasonable efforts, an environment in all its facilities that builds independence, dignity and respect for students, staff, parents/guardians, and the general public.
- 3.2 Bluewater District School Board is committed, through reasonable efforts and accommodations, 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.
- 3.3 Bluewater District School Board is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities, in a timely manner, in the provision of services related to customer service, information and communication, employment, student transportation, and other applicable standards as implemented.

4.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1 The board will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that all policies, practices, and procedures from the date of this policy forward are consistent with the principles of independence, dignity, integration, and equality of opportunity to all, with particular attention for persons with disabilities.
- 4.2 The board will ensure that its policies and procedures related to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) are made available to the public and will also ensure there is capacity to provide communication about these policies and procedures in a format that takes into account considers a person’s disability.
- 4.3 The board will provide training opportunities for all staff, volunteers, and third-party service providers/contractors to meet the accessibility standards of the board.
- 4.4 The board will follow the process for feedback and monitoring that is outlined in AP 1414-D “Accessibility Standards for Customer Service – Monitoring and Feedback”. Information about the feedback process will be readily available to the public and will allow people the public to provide feedback using a number of methods.
- 4.5 The board and all its managers/supervisors and school-based administrators will take into account consider the impact on persons with disabilities when purchasing new equipment, designing new systems or planning a new initiative, except where it is not practical to do so.
- 4.6 The board’s AODA Committee will be responsible for promoting accessibility awareness throughout the board, ensuring accessibility policies and procedures are in compliance with relevant legislation and establishing feedback/consultation process(es) with staff and volunteers.