

Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce

Procedures

Bluewater District School Board
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

TCP-B007

Procedure Title: SERVICE/COMPANION ANIMALS ON BUSES		Approved: September 13, 2013
Related Forms: Bluewater District School Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AF 6808 Service Dog/Companion Dog Request for Involvement with student AF 6809 Service Dog/Companion Dog Management Plan for Care 		Related Policies: Bluewater District School Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedure AP 6809-D Service Dog/Companion Dog (Use of in Schools) Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.P. 5-23(iii) Use of Service Animals by the General Public A.P. 9B Decision-Making Protocol for Entry of a Personal Service Dog

Intent:
Stakeholders: School, Bus Operators, Public, Transportation Consortium
Statements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Ontario Regulation 429/07 made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Human Rights Code provide authority for service dogs to accompany their handlers in all public places including schools and transportation. The Consortium shall make reasonable efforts to support the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and member school board policies and procedures with respect to the provision of transportation services to students requiring the assistance of service animals. It is understood that students requiring the assistance of service/companion animals are to be provided with transportation services wherever possible, without the imposition of restrictions that may hamper such service, but which does not also impose upon the rights of other passengers. Transportation service will be provided on regular yellow school bus service, wherever possible and practical. Students and service/companion animals will be assigned to small vehicles only if required due to the needs of fellow passengers. The Consortium supports integrated service for all students. Where integrated school transportation is not possible, establishes a safety concern, or will impose on the needs of other passengers, other accessible transportation will be provided, where possible. The Consortium contracts with service operators that support the provision of transportation to students with service/companion animals. Contracted operators are responsible for providing training to vehicle drivers regarding the management of service animals during transportation, and the provision of service to students who may require the assistance of a service/companion animal. Contracted service operators develop and maintain policies and procedures for emergency evacuation to ensure that people with various disabilities, including those with service/companion animals, will be safely evacuated from contracted vehicles in cases of emergency. School Principals will collect the necessary documentation required for a service/companion dog to enter a school, and subsequently, a school bus. Documentation will include certification from a recognized trainer, letter from a physician, copy of current vaccinations and licensing. School Principals will provide the Consortium with confirmation that all passengers riding vehicles where a service/companion animal is to be working, have been notified that the animal will be present before the service/companion animal commences riding the vehicle. If the bus route involved transports students from other schools the Consortium will ensure those Principals are advised so they also can inform their students/parents about the service/companion animal.

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1. School staff is required to provide specific instruction and/or information to the bus operator with respect to the appropriate handling of the service/companion animal, where assigned, and in recognition of warnings/reactions.
2. The Consortium will schedule transportation services to provide adequate time to ensure that students with disabilities can safely board and disembark the contracted school purpose vehicle.
3. Where a service/companion animal is to be accommodated, the transportation service provider is responsible for determining if their driver has allergies that may be aggravated by the presence of the service/companion animal, and make alternate driver assignments as necessary.
4. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be responsible for costs associated with the repair of any damage or clean up to equipment caused by the service/companion animal working with their child.
5. Restraints that may be required for the service/companion animal will neither be provided nor secured by the Consortium nor contracted vehicle driver.
6. Service/companion animals must attend the disabled person at all times.
7. Service/companion animals will be required to sit beside the student or on the floor of the vehicle in front of the student during transport. Service/companion animals that are not able to sit as described must be appropriately restrained during transport.