

<b><i>Rainy River District School Board</i></b>	<b>SECTION 4</b> <i>Students</i>
<b>STUDENT USE OF GUIDE/SERVICE DOGS AND SERVICE ANIMALS</b>	<b>4.85</b>

**POLICY**

The Rainy River District School Board will provide individualized accommodation to students with special needs to enable them to have meaningful access to education services.

**RATIONALE**

The Rainy River District School Board is committed to the learning of all students.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

As per Procedure 4.85 Student Use of Guide/Service Dogs and Service Animals

**GUIDELINES**

- 1.1 Where a request to have a student’s Guide/Service Dog or Service Animal accompany the student while attending school or a school-related event, the request shall be reviewed in consideration of the individual student’s dignity, integration, independence and learning needs and the accommodations available to enable meaningful access to education.
- 1.2 Pursuant to the *Education Act* and regulations, the process of accommodation shall also consider:
  - the competing human rights of other students and of staff;
  - the impact of the Guide/Service Dog or Service Animal on the learning environment; and
  - the health and safety of all individuals who are or might be in the school, on school grounds or at a school-related event.
- 1.3 The Board shall retain data regarding the requests for Guide/Service Dogs and Service Animals.

**Definitions**

***Guide Dog*** means a dog trained as a guide for a blind person and having the qualifications prescribed by the regulations pursuant to the *Blind Persons’ Rights Act*;

***Service Dog*** means a dog which has been certified after successfully completing a training program provided by an Accredited Training Organization.

***Service Animal*** for the purpose of this Procedure includes a therapy dog, companion animal, comfort animal and emotional support animal and includes a dog or other domesticated animal that may legally reside in an urban, residential home, that is not highly trained to perform

particular tasks to assist with a student’s disability-related needs, but provides emotional support (and/or companionship, calming influence) for a student with a disability-related mental health and/or psychological need and/or comfort during a difficult period.

<u>CROSS REFERENCE</u>	<u>Date Approved</u> December 3, 2019	<u>LEGAL/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REFERENCE</u>
Procedure 4.85 Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals	<u>Board Motion</u> 74	<i>Human Rights Code, RSO 1990, c.H.19</i>
Policy 2.30 Accessibility Standards	<u>Review Prior To</u> 2024	<i>Education Act, RSO 1990, c.E2, s. 170(1), s.265(1); O. Reg. 298, s.11</i>
Policy 2.67 Equity and Inclusive Education		PPM 163 School Board Policies on Service Animals
Policy 5.01 Special Education		J.F. v. Waterloo Catholic District School Board, 2017 HRTO 1121 (CanLII)
		<i>Accessibility for Ontarions with Disabilities Act, 2005, SO 2005, c.11</i>
		<i>Blind Persons’ Rights Act, RSO 1990, c.B7,</i>
		<i>Dog Owners’ Liability Act, RSO 1990, c.D16</i>
		<i>Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990, c.H7</i>
		<i>Food Safety and Quality Act 2001, SO 2001, c.20</i>