
SECTION 15: SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES - ACCESSIBILITY

The Renfrew County District School Board remains committed to continual improvement of access to school board facilities, policies, programs, practices, and services for students, staff, parent/guardians, volunteers, and members of the community with disabilities. As evidence of this commitment, the school board has designed a multi-year plan for improving accessibility to its school buildings, grounds and administrative offices. As well, the planning process provides for the participation of people with disabilities, or those community-based agencies who advocate on behalf of those with disabilities, to contribute to the development of its annual accessibility plans.

The Renfrew County District School Board's commitment to safe, caring and respectful learning environments includes addressing requirements outlined in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)* and in the *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (Regulation 429 / 07)*.

The Board will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that all policies, practices and procedures are consistent with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. These efforts will reflect principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity to all with particular attention for persons with disabilities.

The Board will welcome all members of the school and broader community to our facilities by committing our staff and volunteers to providing services that respect the independence and dignity of persons with disabilities. These services are to incorporate measures that include but are not limited to the use of assistive devices and service animals.

To ensure greater awareness and responsiveness to the needs of a person with disabilities, the Board directs its senior staff to organize the delivery of appropriate training for all employees. This training will address Accessibility and Customer Service standards.

The Renfrew County District School Board's Annual Accessibility Plan is currently available in PDF format on the board's website (www.rcdsb.on.ca). A hard copy is available for review at each school site and at the Board's main administrative office.