



## **Newly Developed Procedure PR729, Student Use of Service Animals in Schools**

**To:** Governance and Policy Committee

**Date:** 8 January, 2020

**Report No.:** 01-20-3811

### **Strategic Directions**

- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the newly developed Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Procedure (PR729) as presented in this report, be received.

### **Context**

On October 30, 2019, the Board approved the Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy (P096) which was developed in accordance with the Ministry of Education's directions outlined in the Policy/ Program Memorandum (PPM) 163.

The newly developed Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Procedure (PR729) supports the implementation of the Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy (P096). The Procedure outlines detailed processes for the use of service animals by students in schools. The Procedure is based on and incorporates key provisions of the Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Administrative Procedure Template (Appendix B), provided to the TDSB and other school boards by the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE).

The Procedure was reviewed by Executive Council and approved on December 10, 2019. The Procedure came into effect on January 1, 2020.

## **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

The Procedure has been provided to school principals, superintendents and applicable central staff responsible for implementation of the Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy (P096). Training and information sessions will be provided to school administrators on a regular basis and/or upon request.

## **Resource Implications**

No additional resources were allocated by the Ministry of Education for the implementation of the Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy and this Procedure. Resource implications will be identified by staff during 2020/21 school year based on the number of accommodation requests.

## **Communications Considerations**

The Student Use of Services Animals in Schools Procedure (PR729) is posted on the Board's internal and external website and will be communicated through the System Leaders' Bulletin and the TDSB Connects.

## **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

### Policies:

- Accessibility Policy (P069)
- Student Health Support Policy (P092)
- Equity Policy (P037)

### Procedures:

- Use of Service Animals by the General Public (PR604)

### Legislative Acts and Regulations:

- *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*
- *Blind Person's Rights Act*
- *Education Act*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*
- *Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)*

### Other Documents:

- Ontario Human Rights Commission's Policy on Accessible Education for Students with Disabilities (2018)
- PPM 163: School Board Policies on Service Animals

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Student Use of Service Animals in Schools Procedure (PR729) - New
- Appendix B: Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Administrative Procedure Template

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