

REGULATIONS

SUBJECT: Provision for Accessible Student Transportation Services
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The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to addressing the transportation accessibility needs of students who have identified physical disability and/or mobility barriers to riding the regular bus and/or walking to school through accessible buses.

To ensure equitable access to student transportation services, the Board will develop an Individual School Transportation Plan (ISTP) for each student with mobility-related barriers preventing access to and from school. This plan will be developed by the Board's Student Support Services/Well-Being (SSSWB) staff, in collaboration with Chatham Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) student transportation staff and in consultation with the student's parents/guardians.

1. Accessibility Definition and Terminology

- **Accessibility:** Accessibility is defined as that which enables people to achieve their full potential.
- **Barrier:** A barrier relates to anything that prevents a person with a mobility-related diagnosis from fully participating in all aspects of society because of such diagnosis, including a physical barrier, an architectural barrier, a technological barrier, policy or a practice; ("obstacle").
- **Accommodation:** An accommodation is a means, through reasonable efforts, of preventing and removing – in a timely manner - barriers that impede individuals with mobility-related diagnoses from participating fully.
- **Physical Disability:** A condition of such severe physical limitation or deficiency as to require special assistance in learning situations to provide the opportunity for educational achievement equivalent to that of pupils without exceptionalities who are of the same age or developmental level.
- **Blind or Low Vision:** A condition of partial or total impairment of sight or vision that, even with correction, affects educational performance adversely.

2. Responsibility

The Superintendent responsible for SSSWB or their designate, and the Manager of Student Transportation Services, or their designate, will ensure that the provisions of these regulations are implemented.

3. Individual School Transportation Plans (ISTP)

- a. The Superintendent responsible for SSSWB or their designate will, in consultation with parents/guardians, annually identify students with mobility-related barriers who require specific

transportation services; such identification will, wherever possible, be made prior to the commencement of the school year.

- b. Annually, the complete lists of students who require individual student transportation plans will be reviewed by the Board's SSSWB staff in collaboration with CLASS student transportation staff. The eligibility of each student will be reviewed. Confirmation of eligible students will be communicated with the Manager of Student Transportation Services, or their designate, and the student's route information will be communicated as per the CLASS procedure. If a student's mobility-related barriers have changed, and their eligibility status is impacted, parents/guardians, the school and CLASS will be notified.
- c. In consultation with parents or guardians, the Superintendent responsible for SSSWB or their designate, will work with the Manager of Student Transportation Services, or their designate, to develop an ISTP for each student with a mobility-related barrier who requires specific transportation services.

4. Content of Individual School Transportation Plans (ISTP)

An ISTP shall, in respect of each student with a mobility-related barrier requiring specific transportation services, include the following:

- Details of the student's mobility needs with respect to transportation to and from school
- Provisions for the boarding, securement, and disembarking of the student as applicable which can be found on the CLASS website at <https://cklass.ca/about-us/operating-procedures/>

5. Communication of responsibilities re Individual School Transportation Plans (ISTP)

The Superintendent responsible for SSSWB, or their designate, and as appropriate, the Manager of Student Transportation Services, or their designate, will identify and communicate roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the ISTP to the following:

- The independently contracted transportation provider
- The driver of the student transportation vehicle
- The appropriate members of the school staff (e.g., principal, teacher, educational assistant)
- The parents /guardians of the student with the mobility-related barriers
- The student with the mobility-related barriers

6. Changes to Existing Accessible Bus Services

The Superintendent responsible for SSSWB, or their designate may consult with the Manager of Student Transportation Services, or their designate throughout the school year to discuss route changes for students. Should route changes be made, a SSSWB staff member will submit an updated ISTP form to CLASS. The route change request form will include the following:

- Name of student
- Address of Student
- School
- Route Change Request
- Date discussed with CLASS
- SSSWB staff signature

Implementation Date: November 12, 2013
Revised: November 10, 2015, January 14, 2020, March 31, 2026

Reference: Board Policy & Regulations
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) Integrated
Accessibility Standards, Ontario Regulation 191/11 Ontario Human Rights Code