

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 154

Use of Assistive Devices by the General Public

The LDSB Board welcomes 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 people with disabilities. Such services incorporate measures that include but are not limited to the use of assistive devices, which includes any device used by people with disabilities to help with daily living. Assistive devices include a range of products such as wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, oxygen tanks, electronic communication devices.

1.0 Responsibility

- 1.1 Supervisory Officers, Principals and Departmental Managers will ensure that staff is trained to support parents and the general public who may use assistive devices while accessing board services.
- 1.2 Such training will be focused on how to interact with people using assistive devices rather than on the technical use of the assistive devices.
- 1.3 The Board has separate and specific procedures related to personal use of assistive devices for both staff and students.

2.0 Communication Surrounding the Use of Assistive Devices

Assistive Devices Carried by Persons with Disabilities

- 2.1 The board website and each school website will indicate that all board facilities provide services that respect the independence and dignity of people with disabilities and offer services that include the use of assistive devices.
- 2.2 Each board facility that is open to the public will post information in the front office/reception area that welcomes the use of assistive devices and encourages users to seek the necessary support from staff and volunteers.

Assistive Devices/Services Available by the Board

- 2.3 The board website and school websites, as applicable, will indicate the availability of assistive devices provided by the board or school to assist in the provision of services to people with disabilities.
- 2.4 Each board facility that is open to the public will, as applicable, post information in the front office/reception area that indicates the availability of assistive devices and encourage potential users to seek the necessary support from staff and volunteers.

For example, assistive devices could include TTY service, telephones with large numbers, amplifiers, or lifts. Services might include sign language interpretation, oral interpretation, or real-time captioning and alternate service methods might include an employee providing assistance to complete a transaction such as school registration.

3.0 Suggestions For Helping Someone With An Assistive Device

- 3.1 Many users of board services and facilities who have disabilities will have their own personal assistive devices. It is important that employees do not touch or handle an assistive device without permission.
- 3.2 Examples of personal assistive devices include:
 - wheelchairs,
 - scooters
 - walker

- amplification devices that boost sound for listeners who are hard-of-hearing without reducing background noise
- hearing aids
- oxygen tanks
- electronic notebooks or laptop computers
- personal data managers
- communication boards used to communicate using symbols, words or pictures
- speech-generating devices that “speak” when a symbol, word or picture is pressed

4.0 Moving Personal Assistive Devices

4.1 If you have permission to move a person in a wheelchair remember to:

- wait for and follow the person’s instructions;
- confirm that the person is ready to move;
- describe what you are going to do before you do it;
- avoid uneven ground and objects that create bumpy and unsafe ride; and
- practice consideration and safety – do not leave the person in an awkward, dangerous or undignified position such as facing a wall or in the path of opening doors.

4.2 Do not move items or equipment, such as canes and walkers, out of the user’s reach.

4.3 Respect personal space. Do not lean over a person with a disability or lean on their assistive device.

4.4 Let the person know about accessible features in the immediate environment (automatic doors, accessible washrooms, etc.).

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5.0 How To Use TTY And Canada Relay Services

5.1 The following steps must be followed when making a call with a TTY System

1. Push the ON switch
2. Push the DISPLAY switch if you wish to use the screen alone or the PRINT switch if you want what is typed both on screen and in print.
3. Place the telephone receiver on the TTY’s rubber receptacles. Make sure that the receiver is firmly in place and that the telephone’s receiver cord is on the LEFT side of the TTY.
4. Check the telephone indicator light; if it is lit, you have the line.
5. Dial the number, and watch the telephone light; if it is flashing slowly, this indicates that the device on the other end is ringing.
6. When the person you are calling answers, you will see a phrase appear on the screen such as: “Hello, Richard Smith here, GA.” The “GA” stands for “Go Ahead”. Don’t forget to use it whenever you have finished speaking, so the other person will know it’s his or her turn to speak. The person who receives the call is always the one who starts typing first.
7. When the call is over and you want to advise the other person that you are ready to get off the phone, type “SK”. It means Stop Keying. The other person will respond by typing “SK” if he or she agrees that the call is completed. To be courteous, each person

waits until the other one has indicated “SK” before hanging up the phone. Always switch the TTY “OFF” as soon as you have finished the call.

Using the Canada Relay System

5.2 The following steps should be followed when making a call using the Canada Relay System:

- 1 . Phone the number (1-800-855-0511), and tell the operator your name, the name of the person you are calling, and the number you wish to reach.
- 2 . The operator will make the call for you, and you speak to the operator as if you were talking directly to the person you are calling. For example, say “Hi, `How are you doing?” Do not say: “Tell him I said hello.” Remember to say “Go Ahead” when you finish speaking, so the person on the other end will know it is his or her turn to speak.
- 3 . If you normally speak very quickly, the operator may ask you to speak slower so your message can be typed. There will be brief silences as the operator types to the TTY user and the user replies.
- 4 . Operators will not betray confidences. They will not relay profanity, threats or criminal propositions, but will relay marriage proposals, banking and personal financial information and other personal (and even intimate) conversations.

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