



GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ODA) FOR THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 2017 TO AUGUST 2018

The Province passed the Ontarians With Disabilities Act requiring that all public organizations such as municipalities, school boards, hospitals, universities, colleges and Ontario government buildings prepare a plan to make their buildings accessible to those with disabilities. It does not set a standard for accessibility but requires organizations to develop their own plan as to how to make their organizations accessible and to set their own timeline. The Act does not address just the building issues but includes equipment, websites and training for staff in dealing with people with various types of disabilities (not just physical). Existing funds within the organization's budget must be used as there is no extra funding to implement any of the recommendations.

The Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) must publish this plan by September 30th of each year in accordance with the Ontarians With Disabilities Act. Every year the Ontarians With Disabilities Act Committee must update the plan for the next year. However, a newer act called "Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA)" is changing the requirements for future years. All requirements, except Built Space, are now regulated through the AODA. Accordingly, only built space items remain regulated under the ODA.

The ODA Committee would like to provide an on-going opportunity for all staff, parents and community partners of the Greater Essex County District School Board to communicate accessibility concerns to the School Board. To share your suggestion and input, please use the following link:

ODACommittee@publicboard.ca

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for the year September 2017 to August 2018

Barrier	Objective	Means to Prevent/Remove	Performance Criteria	Resources	Time Line	Responsibility
Updating Building Construction Standards as deemed necessary or when built into funded projects	To ensure that older buildings where feasible are updated with accessible materials	As items are requested for repair or replacement, new and more accessible items are installed (e.g. door handles)	Buildings will be updated as required or students will be accommodated at the closest site that is accessible	Facility Services	2017/18 School Year Projects chosen on an 'as needed basis' with students as the priority	Facility Services, Special Education Department, Information Technology Services, School Principal
Accessible Washrooms	To provide access to washrooms	Provide appropriate beams and lifts	Meets the needs as necessary	Appropriate materials required to modify the washrooms	2017/18 School Year Projects chosen on an 'as needed basis' with students as the priority	Facility Services, Special Education Department, School Principal
Accommodations for the Visually Impaired as deemed appropriate	Submit request to the Superintendent of Special Education for students and to the HR Officer – Disability Management, for staff	Provide appropriate accommodations	Meets the needs as necessary	As deemed appropriate	2017/18 School Year Projects chosen on an 'as needed basis' with students and staff as the priority	Facility Services, Special Education Department, Information Technology Services, School Principal, Human Resources Department (for staff)
Automatic Doors – graduated implementation	To provide access to schools for people with disabilities	Install automatic doors, openers and frames as needs are identified	People with disabilities will have access to schools	Doors, openers, ramps, rails and curb-cuts	2017/18 School Year Projects chosen on an 'as needed basis' with students as the priority	Facility Services, Special Education Department, School Principal

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The ODA Committee has reviewed the ODA Plan for the 2017/18 school year.

In addition to this year's plan, the Committee will be focusing on the following items as the GECDSDB strives to identify, address, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility.

- The ODA Committee will continue to collect information from the various stakeholders in order to identify, remove and prevent barriers.
- The ODA Accessibility link on the GECDSDB website will be updated yearly to indicate the progress being made by the School Board.
- The ODA Committee will provide a link on the GECDSDB website inviting suggestions and input for barrier identification and reduction.

If you wish to provide suggestions and input to the ODA Committee, please click on the given link to send us your message via email. These messages will be presented to the ODA Committee for consideration. For this link, please see page 1 of this report.

Renovations planned at elementary and secondary schools for completion during 2016/17 school year:

A.V. Graham PS	New automatic door opener on main entrance door New portable lift system installed in barrier free washroom
Belle River PS	New automatic door opener on a girls' washroom door
W.F. Herman Academy Elementary	Two barrier free washrooms constructed
General Brock PS	Reversed direction of door swing of a washroom door to provide better access into washroom and provide room for a change table in the kindergarten area
Mill Street PS	Installed door in wall between two special education classrooms New automatic door opener on main entrance door