



**NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

<p>Section Transportation – Accessible Transportation Services</p>	<p>Revised July 31, 2012</p>
<p>AC - 002 Service Animals</p>	
<p>General Statement</p>	<p>The Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) shall make reasonable efforts to support the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and member school board policies and procedures with respect to the provision of transportation services to students requiring the assistance of service animals.</p> <p>The NPSSTS recognizes that service is to be provided in such a way that students with disabilities can travel with students without disabilities, where possible. Students requiring the assistance of service animals are to be provided with transportation services wherever possible, without the imposition of restrictions that may hamper such service, but which also does not impose upon the rights of other passengers.</p>
<p>Operational Procedure and Responsibilities</p>	<p>The NPSSTS must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide transportation service via regular school bus, wherever possible and practical. 2. Assign the student and service animal to an alternate school-purpose vehicle (SPV), if possible, when transportation by school bus is not possible due to routing constraints or safety concerns. 3. Assign the student and service animal to an alternate school-purpose vehicle, if possible, when required due to the documented needs of the student in question or their fellow passengers (i.e. severe allergies, etc.). 4. Design transportation services to ensure adequate time for students with disabilities to safely board and disembark the contracted school-purpose vehicle. 5. Inform all affected families via a letter regarding the presence of a service animal on board their child(ren)'s mode of transportation. The letter will be sent home through the school. <p>The Service Animal must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend the student in question at all times.



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	<p>2. Sit beside the student or on the floor of the vehicle in front of the student during transport. Service animals that are not able to sit as described must be appropriately restrained during transport. Restraints, if required, will neither be provided nor secured by the NPSSTS nor the transportation operator or vehicle driver.</p> <p>The School Principal must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the NPSSTS with documentation confirming that the service animal is required by the student, will be working at the school during the day, and is appropriately licensed/certified to provide the requisite service. This documentation must be received by the NPSSTS prior to transportation taking effect. The NPSSTS may share this documentation with affected contracted operators. 2. Ensure the letter supplied by the NPSSTS is distributed as per the student list also supplied by the NPSSTS. 3. Designate school staff to provide specific instructions and/or information to the vehicle driver, as required, with respect to the appropriate handling of the service animal, where assigned, and in recognition of warnings/reactions. 4. Designate school staff to ensure that the service animal is properly restrained, if required, before a vehicle departs from school. Restraints for the service animal, if required, will neither be provided nor secured by the NPSSTS nor the transportation operator or vehicle driver. <p>The Operator will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the provision of transportation to students with service animals. 2. Provide training to vehicle drivers regarding the management of service animals during transportation. 3. Provide training to vehicle drivers regarding the provision of service to students who may require the assistance of a service animal. 4. Ensure there is documentation about the service animal with the route information for all drivers involved. 5. Develop and maintain policies and procedures for emergency evacuation to ensure that people with various disabilities, including those with service animals, will be
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	<p>safely evacuated from contracted vehicles in cases of emergency. The NPSSTS recommends that the operator run an evacuation drill with the service animal and the student, prior to transportation taking effect.</p> <p>6. Determine if their driver and/or their driver's children have allergies that may be aggravated by the presence of the service animal, and make alternate driver assignments as necessary.</p> <p>The Parent/Guardian must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact the operator, after transportation is confirmed with them by the NPSSTS but prior to it taking effect, and arrange a mutually suitable time for the service animal to become accustomed to the assigned vehicle. 2. Ensure the vehicle driver has specific instruction and/or information with respect to the appropriate handling of the service animal, including established commands so that the service animal can respond to the commands of the vehicle driver whenever necessary. The parent/guardian may work with the school to coordinate driver training requirements. 3. Be responsible for costs associated with the repair of any damage or clean up to equipment caused by the service animal working with their child. 4. Provide restraints for the service animal, if required, and ensure that the service animal is properly restrained before a vehicle departs from home/childcare to school. Restraints for the service animal, if required, will neither be provided nor secured by the NPSSTS nor the transportation operator or vehicle driver.
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