# POLICY SO-33

# ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS, INCLUDING STUDENT USE OF GUIDE DOGS, SERVICE DOGS AND SERVICE ANIMALS

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| **Superintendent Responsible:** Superintendent of Education, Specialized Services | **Initial Effective Date:** 2020/02/24 |
| **Last Updated:** 2025/10/27 | **Next Review Date:** 2029/10/26 |

**Objective:**
To meet the obligations pursuant to the *Ontario Human Rights Code* with respect to providing accommodation(s) to students with disabilities.

**Policy Statement:**
Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) provides individualized accommodation(s) to students with disabilities, including access to guide dogs, service dogs or service animals in exceptional circumstances, to enable them to have meaningful access to education services in a manner that respects their dignity, maximizes integration, and facilitates the development of independence.

**Reference(s):**
- Animals in Schools, Including Student Use of Guide Dogs, Service Dogs and Service Animals Procedure (SO-033)
- Accessibility Policy (SO-31)
- Accessibility Procedure (SO-031)
- *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA)*
- *Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07*
- *Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2*
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- Grand Erie's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, 2022-27
- *Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR), Ontario Regulation 191/11*
- Integrated Accessibility Awareness Manual (SO-31-M)
- Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions Including Administration of Medication, in Schools Policy (SO-30)
- Management of Potentially Life-Threatening Health Conditions, Including Administration of Medication, in Schools Manual (SO-30-M)
- *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.M.56*
- *Ontario Human Rights Code*
- *Ontario Regulation 474/00 Access to School Premises*
- *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 13*
- Volunteers Procedure (SO-126)