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<p>Statement</p>	<p>WESTS shall make reasonable efforts to support the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) with respect to the provision of transportation services to students requiring the assistance of certified service dogs.</p> <p>Students requiring the assistance of certified service dogs will be provided with transportation services wherever possible, without the imposition of restrictions that may hamper such service, but which also does not impose undue hardship upon the rights of other passengers.</p>
<p>Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation services will be provided on a regular school bus service, wherever possible and practical. Students and certified service dogs will be assigned to a small vehicle only if required due to the documented needs of fellow passengers. • WESTS will require Bus Operators to support the provision of transportation to students with certified service dogs. • The Special Education Department will be responsible for arranging training. WESTS will ensure that all required operator staff have access to the training regarding the management of certified service dogs during transportation, and the provision of service to students who may require the assistance of a certified service dog. • Drivers will not be allowed to drive a bus that has a certified service dog unless they have had the prerequisite training. • Bus operators will be required to amend their emergency evacuation procedures to include those students with certified service dogs. • WESTS will be provided with approval from the requesting board confirming the certified service dog is required and that the dog has been appropriately licensed/certified to provide the requisite service prior to the implementation of the transportation. • School principals will provide WESTS with confirmation that all passengers riding vehicles where a certified service dog is to be working, have been notified that the dog will be present



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	<p>before the certified service dog commences riding the vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The special education department will provide specific instructions and/or information to the bus driver with respect to the appropriate handling of the certified service dog.• WESTS will design the route to provide adequate time to ensure the student can safely board and disembark with the certified service dog.• Parents/guardians will be responsible for costs associated with the repair of any damage or clean up to equipment caused by the dog working with their child.• Any restraints required for the certified service dog will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.• Certified service dogs must stay with their assigned student at all times.• Certified service dogs will be required to sit beside the student or on the floor of the vehicle in front of the student during transport. Students with certified service dogs will be seated at the front of the bus to ensure safety for both the service dog and other students on the bus.• Certified service dogs that are not able to sit as described must be appropriately restrained.
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