

Annual Accessibility Status Report



Trillium Lakelands District School Board

January - December 2024

Prepared by:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

If you require this document in an accessible format, contact Communications Services at info@tldsbc.on.ca.

Introduction

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) covers nearly 12,000 square kilometers encompassing the municipalities of the City of Kawartha Lakes, the County of Haliburton, and the District Municipality of Muskoka.

With over 16,000 students, TLDSB has 40 elementary schools, seven secondary schools, and six adult and alternate education centres. The Board also offers a well-attended online learning program accessed world-wide through its Virtual Learning Centre.

In TLDSB we are committed to further improving student achievement, fostering staff and student well-being, and building stronger parent/guardian and community partnerships in safe, caring, and equitable working and learning environments.

2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years

TLDSB is committed to identifying, removing, and preventing barriers to people with disabilities who work, learn, and participate in the school board community and environment, including students, staff, parents and guardians, volunteers and visitors to the Board and its schools.

This Annual Report reflects what TLDSB has completed during the latter half of the 2023-2024 and beginning of the 2024-2025 school years:

Policies and procedures

The following policies and procedures were updated:

- Lockdown Emergency Response Plan (2023-2028)
- Student use of Service Animals in Schools (2024-2029)

Training

Communication Services provided AODA training in Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat to executive assistants and staff in the Communication Services Department.

Communications

The Communication Services and Technology Services departments collaborated to implement an online tool (accessiBe) on all school and Board websites, which provides accessibility adjustments to the end user. They also redeveloped all secondary school websites to be more accessible, engaging, and modern, and continued to use SiteImprove to monitor school and Board websites for accessibility barriers.

Technology Services

Technology Services in collaboration with Special Education, worked to remove accessibility barriers for access to technology by allowing TLDSB staff to create and manage student accounts without having to rely on external agencies for items such as password resets and account recoveries. They also continued to maintain equipment for staff and students, updating

both hardware and software. A provision was also added in 2024 with display options to support people with low vision needs. Technology Services worked with Human Resources Services to ensure staff with accessibility needs had access to equipment.

Transportation

Transportation continued to collaborate with Special Education to create Individual Student Transportation plans, ensuring the needs of students with accessibility are met.

Human Resources Services

Human Resources Services continued to ensure accessibility provisions were made available to new applicants and that new hires completed accessibility training via AODA.ca. The Attendance and Support Management Officers (ADMOs) continued to provide permanent and short-term support for workplace accommodations. The ADMOs also participated in a Reducing Stigma webinar session to further understand barriers to accessibility.

An ASL-English Interpreter and Language Acquisition Worker was also hired by Human Resources Services and Special Education during the 2023-2024 school year.

Special Education

Special Education piloted two communication programs that supported students with autism. They updated and implemented the School to Work Continuum in all high school Practical Academics and Life Skills classes to assess readiness, scaffold skills and support work opportunities for students with developmental disabilities. Special Education also held an accessibility standards meeting to review blind/low vision and deaf/hard of hearing accommodations for staff and students.

Facility Services

Facilities Services, in collaboration with Special Education, have a shift in practices for facility design to ensure accessible accommodations are a routine part of upgrades and new builds. They also met monthly to plan for future building modifications that would ensure accessibility for students with disabilities. Facilities Services also leveraged partnerships with community service providers to conduct environmental assessments for students who have orientation and mobility needs and utilized the Facilities Accommodation Request process to ensure accessibility for the unique needs of students with disabilities.

In 2024, Facilities Services:

- Replaced exterior doors/frames in seven schools, widening the doors to correct widths when possible
- Enhanced site accessibility by implementing curb cuts, exterior ramps, and door operators in four schools
- Upgraded main washrooms in nine schools with wheelchair accessible stalls
- Replaced a stage lift in one school

- Replaced lights in various schools with LEDs

Review and monitoring process

The Accessibility Planning Committee meets regularly during the year to review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of barrier-removal and prevention strategies and to plan for increased accessibility throughout the Board.

Questions, comments, or feedback regarding the Annual Accessibility Report for 2024 may be directed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee at info@tldsbc.on.ca.