



Red River Valley School Division

Accessibility Plan

BASELINE REPORT

The Red River Valley School Division has 15 public schools for Grades K to 12. Four of these schools are Hutterite Colony schools. We offer English, French Immersion, français partiel and Technical Vocational programs. The Red River Valley School Division is a partner in the Red River Technical Vocational Program. The division also owns two bus garages and a division office. The target population for this plan includes staff, students, parents and community members.

The following is a list of accomplishments:

- Automatic Door openers in some buildings
- Ramps in some buildings
- Wheel chair buses are available for students
- Provide funding for sign language translators
- FM systems in classrooms
- Grooming rooms in some schools
- Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices are available for students
- Translators for people who don't have English as their first language and for ASL
- Employees have access to information via the website and FirstClass (communication platform)
- Some buildings have washrooms that are wheelchair accessible
- We have a policy for service animals for students
- Text to speech and speech to text devices are available for students
- Visual materials are available for students
- An accessibility working group has been established and a coordinator has been named for 2016-2017

The following is a list of barriers that were identified:

- Some buildings do not have automatic door openers
- The division and school websites are not accessible to everyone
- Not all buildings have wheelchair accessible washrooms
- Interpreters – we have a budget established but availability of interpreters is a challenge
- Written material is mostly in English
- Visual materials for adults not available
- Secretary desks are high and it may be difficult for secretaries to see public entering the building

- Some school division grounds do not have disability parking
- Door knobs should be levers in our buildings
- Some school libraries are not wheelchair accessible
- Most buildings have narrow doorways
- Signage absent in buildings
- Not all employees are aware of the accessibility legislation
- Buildings without gender neutral washrooms
- No policy that promotes accessibility

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Red River Valley School Division is committed to ensuring equal access and participation for all people, regardless of their abilities. We are committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence. We believe in inclusion. We are committed to meeting the needs of people who face accessibility barriers by identifying, removing and preventing these barriers and by meeting requirements of the *Accessibility of Manitobans Act*.

POLICIES

The Red River Valley School Division currently has one policy on accessibility – IMG – Use of Certified Service Dog.

ACTIONS

Action 1 – Establish Accessibility Working Group		
Initiatives/Actions	Outcomes	Results
Draft a plan, and review with stakeholders.	A plan will be finalized by December 2016	Accessibility Coordinator and working group was established in fall. The plan was completed and submitted in December 2016.

Action 2 - Policies		
Initiatives/Actions	Outcome	Results
Discuss potential policies at the Board policy committee meeting in fall 2016	Policy will be developed and implemented for the 2017-2018 school year.	A discussion was held on December 22, 2016. No new policy will be developed but gaps will be identified in existing policies to include accessibility.

Action 3 - Awareness		
Initiatives/Actions	Outcomes	Result
<p>Ask a representative from the Disabilities Issues Office to provide training for staff</p> <p>At staff meetings, discuss and identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility achievements • Accessibility barriers • Review draft statement of commitment • <p>At a Board meeting,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the list achievements and barriers created by staff. • Review draft statement of commitment <p>At a working group meeting,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss potential training for school/receptionist staff. <p>Identify who will prepare and deliver training sessions.</p> <p>Access people with disabilities or person with disabilities to discuss accessibility in our schools</p>	<p>Have a training session for all staff members with receptionist duties by September 30, 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>A training program was reviewed in May 2017 and will be purchased in June 2017. The rollout for training will be discussed at the department meeting in September 2017.</p> <p>Barriers and achievements were listed at the September Department meeting</p> <p>Plan was shared with administrators in November 2016</p>

Action 4 – Reduce accessibility barriers		
Initiatives/Actions	Outcomes	Result
<p>Maintenance Supervisor or designate will visit all public building and generate a list of needs for each site.</p> <p>A list of barriers will be compiled based on feedback gathered from various groups. The working group will prioritized barriers to be addressed.</p> <p>A plan with timelines will be prepared by the working group.</p> <p>A budget proposal to support the plan will be prepared by the working group.</p>	<p>Checklist will be developed to identify barriers.</p> <p>Implementation plan for reduction of barriers will begin in 2017-2018.</p>	<p>A checklist was completed for each school. A table of most important deficiencies was completed on June 28, 2017.</p>

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