



**Northeastern
Catholic District**
SCHOOL BOARD

A place where we all belong

Accessibility Annual Report 2023-2024

Message from Keld Scott

Superintendent of Business & Accessibility Planning Committee Chair

On behalf of the NCDSB Accessibility Committee, we are pleased to present the 2023-2024 Accessibility Annual Report.

As a committee, we have worked hard over the course of this past year to achieve positive outcomes and ensure our full compliance with all requirements under the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) regulations.

Furthermore, we have successfully continued to enhance and fulfill our aim and the updated NCDSB policy Accessibility Standards (F-1) which states:

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) is committed to providing services to our students, parents, guardians, staff, and our community partners that are free of barriers and biases. The NCDSB strives to ensure that key principles of independence, dignity, integration and equality of opportunity are reflected and valued in our learning and working environments. The NCDSB is also committed to ensuring that all people have the same access to our services. The NCDSB commits to the continuous improvement of access to our facilities, schools, and services for all members of our communities.

We are very proud of our collective achievements and remain committed to continuous improvements to ensure that all members of our communities have proper access to our facilities, programs, and services.

Keld Scott

Superintendent of Business & Accessibility Planning Committee Chair

The following annual report was prepared by the NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee in accordance with the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

INTRODUCTION

The NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan can be found on our website at: [NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2021-25](#).

As outlined in the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, and as a component of the AODA compliance requirements, an annual status report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the plan is to be prepared at the June committee meeting and to be presented to the Board of Trustees no later than at its September meeting.

Similar to the 2022-2023 school year, the 2023-2024 school year provided the Accessibility Committee with an opportunity to reach out to our schools, identify accessibility barriers and create plans to ensure we continue the dialogue about accessibility issues within our school board.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE ACTION AND PLANS

The following actions/plans serve to highlight the 2023-2024 NCDSB Accessibility measures taken:

- i) The Accessibility Committee provided updates and improved communication through the NCDSB Accessibility webpage <https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/accessibility.php>.
- ii) The Accessibility Committee conducted the annual *Accessibility Features by School Report*. This report allows each school to list the accessible features their school currently has in place. The 2023-2024 school year accessible feature inventory is very similar to prior years.
- iii) The Accessibility Committee conducted the annual *Accessibility Barriers by School* survey. The purpose of this survey is to identify accessible barriers within our school and then the plans to rectifying these areas of opportunity, reflecting correct budgetary considerations. This survey allows each school to provide their accessibility issues and shortcoming (barriers). The number one accessibility barrier across the NCDSB related to automatic entrance and exit door features. The number two accessibility barrier identified was the limited accessible washrooms within our schools buildings.
- iv) To enhance awareness and communication about accessibility issues, successes and best practices, the Accessibility Committee created “Accessibility Matters” newsletters and produced three newsletters through the past school year to highlight accessibility within our schools, provide staff with accessible information and provide accessibility facts.

- v) The NCDSB Accessibility Standards for Customer Service and Planning Policy F-1 was reviewed by the Accessibility Committee and recommended amendments were provided to update this Board policy. A newly revised and updated Accessibility Standards Policy (F-1) was approved by the Board of Trustees.
- vi) To further enhance the understanding of accessible issue in relations to providing accessible customer service, one of the core AODA standards, an online training course was developed and all Board office staff has taken the course. A review of how and when all NCDSB employees can take the 41-minute course is being reviewed (on-going initiative).
- vii) The Accessibility Committee has created and completed the *NCDSB Accessibility Annual Report (2023-2024)* for presentation to the NCDSB Trustees.

CONCLUSION

The focus of the 2023-2024 school year has been following through and building upon last year's implementation of the NCDSB Accessibility Committee aim:

This Multi-year Accessibility Plan describes the measures that the Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) has taken and the measures that the Board will take during the period of the Multi-year Accessibility Plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who use the facilities and services of the Board, including staff, day students, summer students, volunteers, parents of students and other members of the community.

Our 2023-2024 actions have continued enhance awareness and communication of accessibility issues, barriers and awareness within the NCDSB school community.

The NCDSB Accessibility Committee looks forward to continuing our work with you to ensure that all accessibility barriers are eliminated for all NCDSB students and employees.

Please accept the *Northeastern Catholic District School Board Accessibility Annual Report 2023-2024* as presented.