Northeastern Catholic District School Board

A place where we all belong

Accessibility Annual Report

2025-2026

Year in Review Message from Keld Scott

Superintendent of Business & Accessibility Planning Committee Chair

As we conclude the 2025–2026 school year, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Accessibility Planning Committee, to reflect on the meaningful progress made across the Northeastern Catholic District School Board in advancing accessibility, inclusion, and equity for all members of our school communities.

This year marked an important milestone for our Board with the approval and adoption of the 2025–2029 NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. This comprehensive plan reaffirms our collective commitment to identifying, preventing, and removing barriers that may impact students, staff, families, and community members. The development of the plan was guided by collaboration, consultation, and a shared vision of creating learning and working environments that are welcoming, inclusive, and accessible to all.

In addition, I am pleased to share that the Board successfully achieved the mandated Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility compliance requirements for 2025. This accomplishment reflects the dedication and ongoing efforts of staff across all departments who continue to prioritize accessibility in everyday practices, policies, communications, facilities, and programming.

Throughout the school year, the Accessibility Planning Committee remained focused on promoting awareness, supporting compliance initiatives, and encouraging continuous improvement in accessibility standards throughout the organization. These achievements would not have been possible without the support and commitment of our Senior Administration, Trustees, Principals, educators, support staff, and community partners.

As we look ahead, the Accessibility Planning Committee remains committed to building upon this strong foundation and continuing the important work outlined within the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Together, we will continue striving to ensure that every individual is treated with dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to fostering accessible and inclusive Catholic learning and working environments across our Board.

Sincerely,

Keld Scott
Accessibility Planning Committee Chair
Northeastern Catholic District School Board

The following annual report was prepared by the NCDSB Accessibility Planning Committee in accordance with the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

INTRODUCTION

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board's newly approved Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2025–2029 can be found on our website at: https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/accessibility.php

As outlined in the NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2025–2029, and as a component of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance requirements, an annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the plan is to be prepared annually and presented to the Board of Trustees.

The 2025–2026 school year marked an important milestone for the Northeastern Catholic District School Board as the Accessibility Planning Committee completed the review, approval, and adoption of the new 2025–2029 NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. This updated plan reflects the Board's continued commitment to identifying, removing, and preventing barriers for students, staff, families, and community members while strengthening accessibility practices throughout all Board operations.

Throughout the school year, the Accessibility Planning Committee continued to engage schools and departments in meaningful dialogue surrounding accessibility awareness, accessibility planning, and barrier prevention. Building on the successes and priorities identified during previous school years, the committee worked collaboratively to improve accessibility across all Board facilities, programs, services, and communications.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND PLANS

The following actions and initiatives highlight the accessibility measures undertaken during the 2025–2026 school year:

i) The Accessibility Planning Committee continued to provide updates and improve communication through the NCDSB Accessibility webpage:
https://www.ncdsb.on.ca/accessibility.php

The newly designed webpage continues to serve as a central resource for accessibility information, policies, reports, training resources, and updates regarding accessibility initiatives across the Board.

ii) The Accessibility Planning Committee completed the review process and received Board approval for the new NCDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2025–2029.

The approval and adoption of the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan represents a significant achievement for the Board and outlines the Board's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusion over the next four years. The plan establishes priorities and actions designed to improve accessibility in the areas of customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation, and the built environment.

iii) The Accessibility Planning Committee conducted the annual Accessibility Features by School Report.

This annual report allows each school to identify and maintain an inventory of existing accessible features within their buildings. The 2025–2026 school year inventory remained consistent with previous years, reflecting the lasting impact of accessibility improvements completed throughout the Board.

iv) The Accessibility Planning Committee conducted the annual Accessibility Barriers by School Survey.

The purpose of this survey is to identify accessibility barriers within schools and Board facilities and develop plans for addressing these areas through future budgeting and operational planning.

The annual Accessibility Barriers Survey resulted in a Board-wide review of accessible washrooms and accessible parking areas at all NCDSB school locations. These reviews will assist the Board in identifying priorities for future accessibility enhancements and capital improvement planning.

In addition, the Board continued progress in addressing accessible entrance and exit barriers through the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of automatic door accessibility features at multiple school and Board locations.

v) To enhance awareness and communication regarding accessibility issues, the Accessibility Planning Committee continued the development and distribution of the “Accessibility Matters” newsletter.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, multiple editions of the newsletter were shared with staff to highlight accessibility initiatives within NCDSB schools, share best practices, promote accessibility awareness, and provide information related to accessibility standards and inclusive practices.

The continuation of the “Accessibility Matters” newsletter has helped strengthen awareness and ongoing dialogue regarding accessibility throughout the Board community.

vi) The Accessibility Planning Committee continued implementation and awareness of the revised NCDSB Policy F-1 Accessibility Standards.

The policy continued to support the Board’s commitment to accessible customer service practices and compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

vii) Accessibility and customer service training continued to be provided to all Board employees.

Board staff participated in annual accessibility awareness and customer service training designed to strengthen understanding of accessibility standards, inclusive practices, and responsibilities

under the AODA. Ongoing review and enhancement of training materials will continue to support staff learning and compliance.

viii) The Northeastern Catholic District School Board successfully achieved the mandated Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility compliance requirements for 2025.

This achievement reflects the Board's continued dedication to meeting provincial accessibility standards and maintaining compliance through proactive planning, policy implementation, staff training, accessibility reviews, and accessibility initiatives across all departments and schools.

ix) The Accessibility Planning Committee completed the NCDSB Accessibility Annual Report for the 2025–2026 school year for presentation to the NCDSB Board of Trustees.

CONCLUSION

The Northeastern Catholic District School Board remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering an inclusive, barrier-free environment for all students, staff, families, and community members. Guided by our Catholic values and rooted in the principles of dignity, equity, and respect, we continue to identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility in all areas of our organization.

The successful approval and adoption of the new 2025–2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan represents a significant step forward in the Board's ongoing accessibility journey. Through continued collaboration, consultation, and engagement with our school communities, we will continue to strengthen accessibility initiatives that support the full participation and inclusion of every individual in the life of our schools.

Together, we will ensure that our schools reflect the Gospel values of compassion, justice, and inclusion, creating learning and working environments where all individuals can flourish.

As we look ahead, the Northeastern Catholic District School Board remains committed to continuous improvement and compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), while building a truly accessible, welcoming, and inclusive Catholic learning community for all.